

"GISBURN 2001"

**VILLAGE
APPRAISAL**

1996



FINAL REPORT
(SEPTEMBER 1997)

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INTRODUCTION

A village appraisal is a type of "stocktaking" of a community, carried out by local people, to identify whether anything requires improving, protecting or changing.

The appraisal presents a picture of the village as it is now and gives all residents the opportunity to offer their own personal views and opinions (anonymously) which can be taken into account when future decisions are made.

In autumn 1995 it was decided that a village appraisal would be a valuable exercise for Gisburn. Although many appraisals have been carried out in other parts of the country, this would be the first undertaken in the Ribble Valley

In March 1996, a public meeting was held, a steering committee formed and items for consideration were raised.

Our appraisal was named "GISBURN 2001" because although the survey was to take place in 1996, our intention would be to look forward into the next millennium.

Several months of preparation work were then embarked upon by the steering committee, group work was undertaken with the Monday Club and St Mary's Youth Club, and in September 1996 questionnaires were distributed and collected by 13 local volunteers.

The questionnaire was distributed to every one of the 168 households (including farms) within the Parish of Gisburn, 84.5% of these were returned and 298 residents of 11 years and over completed the questionnaire.

Questionnaires were also distributed to 36 businesses (not including farms) in the Parish, 30 replies were received, giving a return of 83%.



Church View

Using information gathered in the questionnaire and from many other sources, this report was prepared.

The report:-

- Contains views and opinions of the residents of Gisburn.
- Identifies key issues in Gisburn.
- Provides useful and factual information about Gisburn.
- Identifies what residents would like of and for Gisburn.
- Can be used to help obtain solutions and resources for possible problems.
- Can be used to help plan for the future.
- Provides an interesting and useful document for the archives.

K C

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The steering group would like to thank everyone who completed a household or business questionnaire, and those who attended the two public meetings.

We would particularly like to thank the volunteers who, along with Mrs Kathleen A. Calvert, Mrs Shirley E. Waller, Mr John Dinsdale, and Mr William S. Pate, distributed and collected the questionnaires, helping us achieve such a magnificent response rate:-

Mrs Hilda Waddington, Mrs Marion Norcross, Mrs Lily Wallbank, Mrs Linda Farnworth, Mrs Freda Korol, Mrs Jessie Wrathall, Mrs Sandra Lund, Mrs Lucy Newlove and Mrs Jean Ryde.

We are also grateful to the following for their help:-

Joanne Leeman.	(Rural Adviser Community Council of Lancashire. (C.C.L.))
Andy Ashcroft.	(Rural Development Area Projects Officer)
Alistaire Cunningham.	(Director of Development. (C.C.L.))
Sue Caudle.	(Rural Arts Officer (C.C.L.))
Pat Ward.	(Director of Development R.V.B.C.)
Helen Bolton.	(R.V.B.C.)
Canon Graham Walker.	(Parish Magazine)
The Rev: Gill Hall.	(Parish Magazine)

Mrs Dorothy Emmott & Mrs Sheila M. Pate for their help with refreshments.

The Venerable Malcolm Grundy - Archdeacon of Craven, and Mrs Wendy Grundy, for help throughout the appraisal.

We have applied for and received two Rural Action Grants to assist us in carrying out the GISBURN 2001 village appraisal.

Rural Action is a partnership of organisations working together for a better environment. It has a national office and is funded by the Countryside Commission, English Nature and the Rural Development Commission.

Grants and advice for this area are administered by the Community Council of Lancashire.(C.C.L.)

Community Council of Lancashire. A registered charity founded in 1934, C.C.L. promotes and develops social and community activities in Lancashire working with local people, through voluntary groups and in partnership with public authorities. It is funded mainly by grants from the Rural Development Commission and L.C.C.

C.C.L. have provided useful advice, information and practical assistance throughout the appraisal process and are also a constant source of help to the Festival Hall Management Committee.

"To err is human; therefore, there will be inaccuracies. Will those concerned accept our assurance that they are inadvertant" (K.A.C. & W.S.P.)

Throughout the report are items of historical interest relating to each section, this information is not intended to provide a comprehensive history of the village, only to give some background to other information and add interest to the report. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, experts on local history with more accurate information may contact the Steering Group with details for future reference .

The Steering Group

Secretary Mrs K.A.Calvert.

Treasurer Mr W.S.Pate.

Other members:- Mrs S.E.Waller. Mr J.Dinsdale. Mr F.A.Wrathall.

The final report of Gisburn 2001 village appraisal is the result of many hours of voluntary time and effort over the past two years.

Computer Software was used to help choose questions, print the questionnaire, feed in and analyse all replies to the household survey.

The Software was programmed by and purchased from the Countryside and Community Research Unit at the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. It is protected by Copyright laws and we are Registered User No: 636.

Although we were assisted by the use of a computer programme, we did not feel it would provide as much feedback as we would like, so alongside this we chose to prepare a separate programme which, although we knew at the outset would be an extremely laborious and time-consuming task, has proved to be very successful, as it has enabled us to analyse the response to "Other Comments" which we asked for in the questionnaire, and has provided us with a much clearer indication of the feelings of residents of the Parish.

The business survey was undertaken entirely without the aid of a computer.

-Mrs K.A.Calvert.

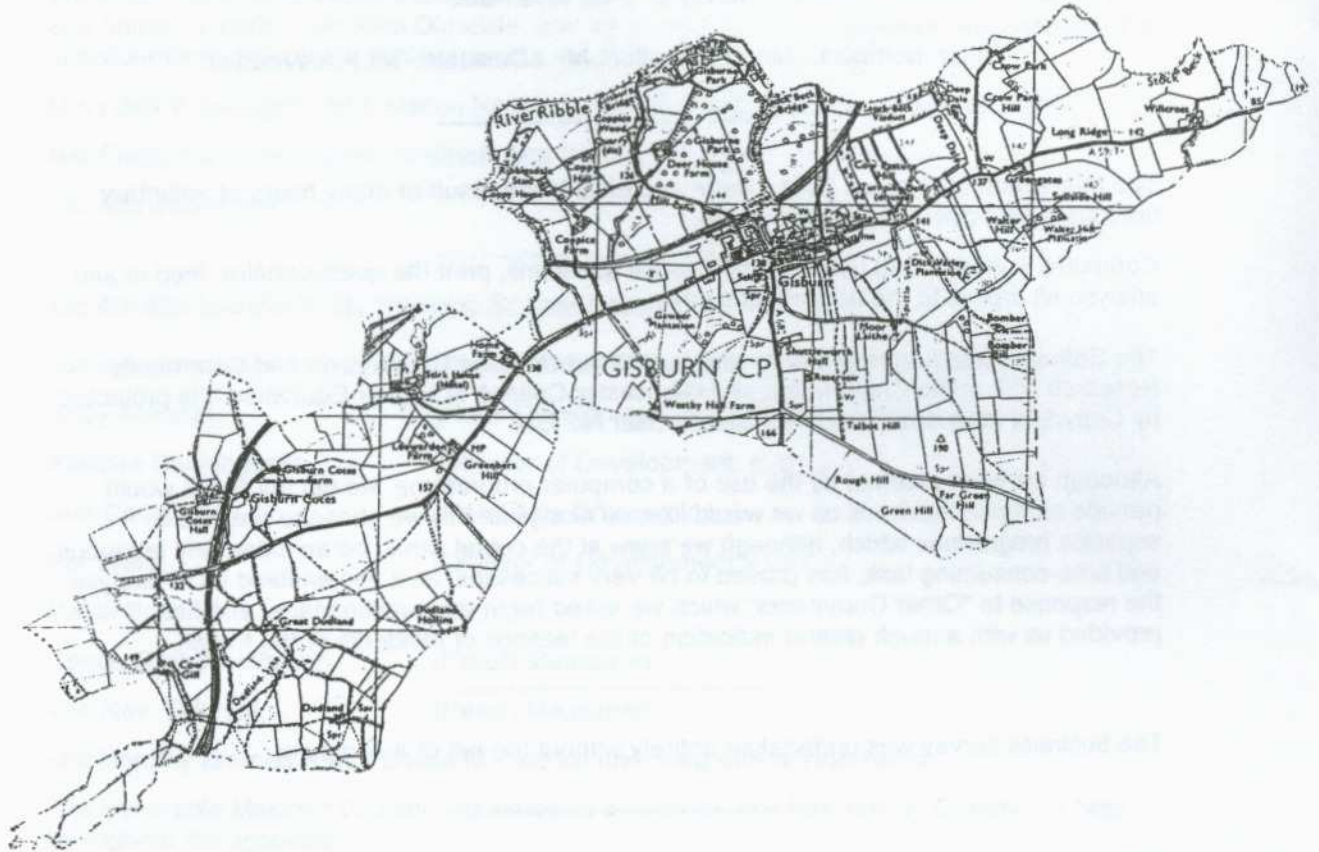
- Co-ordination of appraisal.
- Publicity.
- Preparation of household questionnaire.
- Preparation of business questionnaire (manual).
- Compilation of numerous flyers and letters.
- Analysis of information from business questionnaire (manual).
- Research for final report.
- Compilation of maps and drawings.
- Compilation of text, editing and publishing of Summary of Main Findings and Final Report.
- Submission for entry to Village Ventures Competition.

Mr W.S.Pate.

- Preparation and input of information to print out household questionnaire.
- Preparation of business questionnaire (manual).
- Input of information to print numerous flyers and letters.
- Input of replies and answers from questionnaires.
- Manual transcript of "Other Comments" from questionnaires.
- Separate input of responses to "other comments" from questionnaires.
- Computer analysis of information from household questionnaires.
- Compilation of charts and graphs.
- Editing and publishing of Summary of Main Findings and Final Report.

GISBURN

The civil parish of Gisburn covers 852 hectares (2103 acres) and is part of the Ribble Valley in the County of Lancashire.
 The commercial and administrative centre of the area is Clitheroe, which is 7 miles to the west of the village.



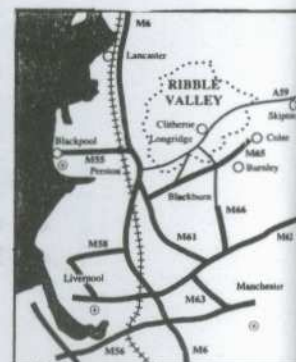
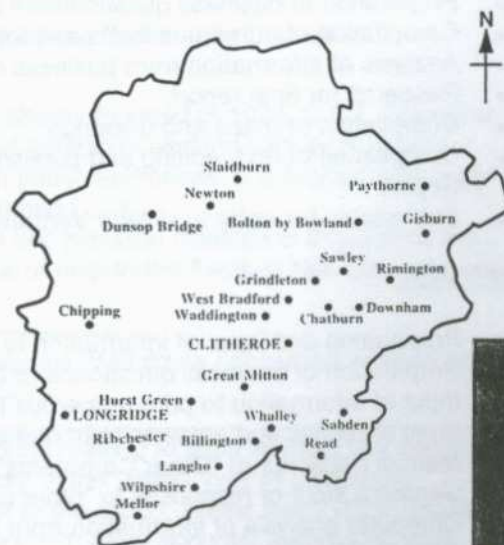
Until local government re-organisation in 1974, Gisburn was part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, administered by Bowland Rural District Council.

Population (1991 census) 447
No; of households (1991 census) 167
Average household size (persons) 2.68

No; of retail businesses in parish 10
No; of working farms in parish 14
No; of public houses in village 2
No; of other businesses in parish 24

Adjoining civil parishes:-
 Rimington, Bolton-by-Bowland, Paythorne, Sawley, Horton-in-Craven, Bracewell, and Newsholme

No; of grade 1 listed buildings in parish 1
No; of grade 2 listed buildings in parish 22
No; of other gr: 2 listed items in parish 5



HISTORY

Gisburn village is situated in the North East of the Ribble Valley and is surrounded by beautiful countryside.

The village has many stone built houses and cottages of the 16th, 17th and 18th century, with roofs of many different levels. Some of these were home to cottage weavers and many of the 19th century cottages were built to house estate workers. In the 17th century, surrounding woods and forests were protected as Crown Property. Old ships timbers brought by traders returning from east coast ports, were used in the building of some of the older properties in the Parish.



The 12th century Church of St Mary-the-Virgin has a 14th century tower and beautiful stained glass windows, some of which date back to medieval times (see also page 19). Inside the Church, many interesting memorial tablets and artefacts can be found. The most recent addition is a magnificent detailed oak model of the Church made by a local craftsman.

In the Churchyard, signs direct you to the grave of Francis Duckworth, composer of the very popular and well known hymn tune "RIMINGTON".

Gisburn was known as 'Ghiseburn' at the time of the Domesday Survey, this was changed to 'Giselburn' circa 1195. The name changed again to Gisburne and eventually became GISBURN because the London Midland & Scottish Railway Company decided many hours work each year would be saved by dropping the "e" !

The Lister Family. At the time of the Domesday Survey, the manor of 'Ghiseburn' was part of the Percy fee. It was passed to the Abbot of Salley (Sawley) in 1224 and disposed of by the King at the dissolution. In 1613 it passed to the Lister family. In 1797, on threat of invasion by Napoleon, Thomas Lister raised and equipped a troop of cavalry and yeomanry, for his patriotism he was made **Baron Ribblesdale of Gisburne Park**.

He planted more than a million oak trees on the banks of the river along with a large number of other trees.

Gisburne Park was built by the Lister family in the 18th century.

Wild hornless white cattle grazed in the grounds of the park. In the 19th century the cattle became tame and decreased in numbers to around seven or eight animals, these were kept on the estate and became more and more "in bred". Eventually only bulls were born, and the Gisburne "White Bulls" died out by 1859.

The public were allowed free access to the park grounds until 1880, when it was closed to visitors due to "continual disorderly behaviour by drunken "riff-raff".

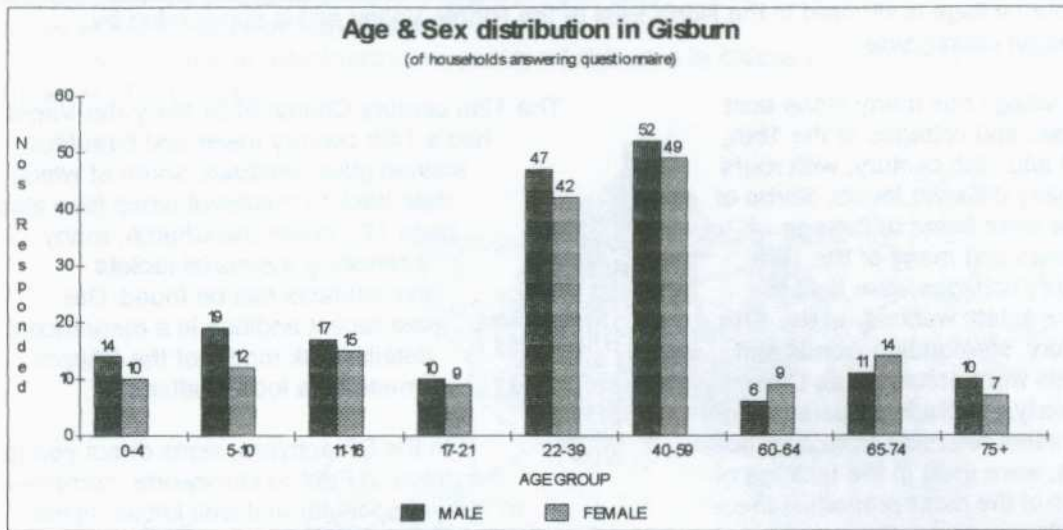
The fourth Lord Ribblesdale had two sons, both were killed in action, one in the Boer War and the other in the 1914-1918 conflict. Memorial tablets can be found in the Ribblesdale Chapel in St Mary's Church.

Part of the estate was sold in 1927 to cover death duties of the last Lord Ribblesdale who was survived only by his two sisters. On their deaths in 1944, the remaining estate was sold.

The Hindley family became resident at Gisburne Park. One of the stained glass windows in the north side of the Church is dedicated to the late John Reginald Hindley, and depicts the fact that he was a great horseman.

In October 1995, Gisburne Park, the grade 1 listed Georgian country home, was converted to an independent private hospital and rehabilitation centre. The hospital retains much of its original character and charm, including beautiful cornices, mouldings and plasterwork.

POPULATION



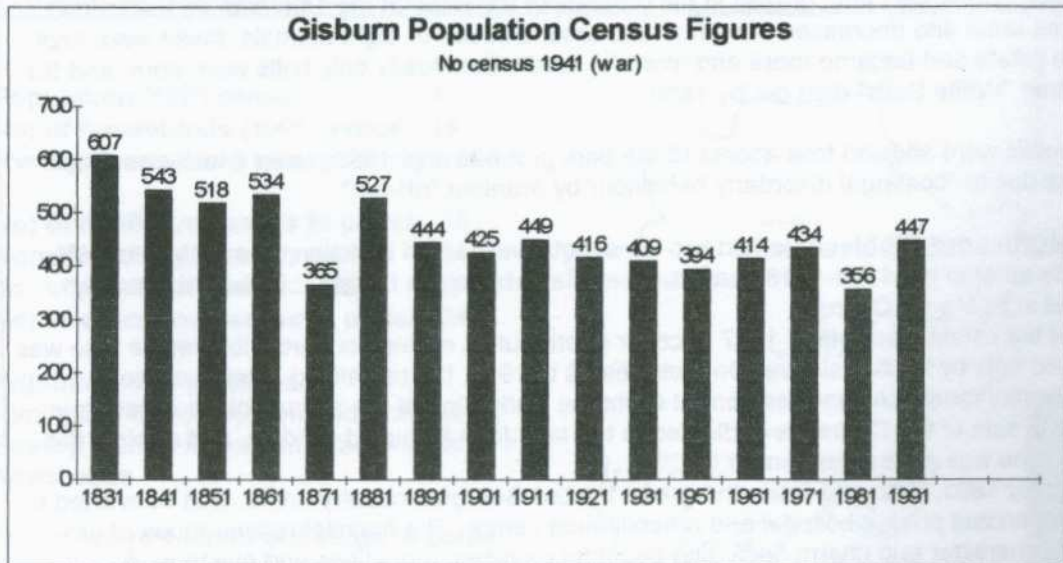
The sharp drop in the population of Gisburn during the 19th Century (see below) was almost certainly due to the decline of the cottage weaving industry in the village. The figure for 1861 is misleading, as a total of 80 men were present in the Parish on the night of 7th April (whose usual home was elsewhere) and were recorded as attending the cattle market (41 cattle dealers, 22 drovers, 1 pig dealer, 16 others). The true population of Gisburn would have been 454. The increase in population between 1871 and 1881 was probably due to employment created by the opening of the railway. (See also Business and Employment section - page 8).

Between 1971 and 1981 the population dropped quite dramatically, during which period, the school roll numbers fell in similar proportions.

Between 1981 and 1991 school roll numbers began to increase again as more houses were built and consequently more people came to live in the village.

In 1851 there were 518 persons living in 119 houses (4.3 persons per house) and in 1991 447 people were occupying 167 houses which averages only 2.7 persons per house.

By the 2001 census, the population of Gisburn is likely to have risen to around 500 people.



HOUSING

HOUSE OWNERSHIP (see diagram) TAKEN FROM 1991 CENSUS

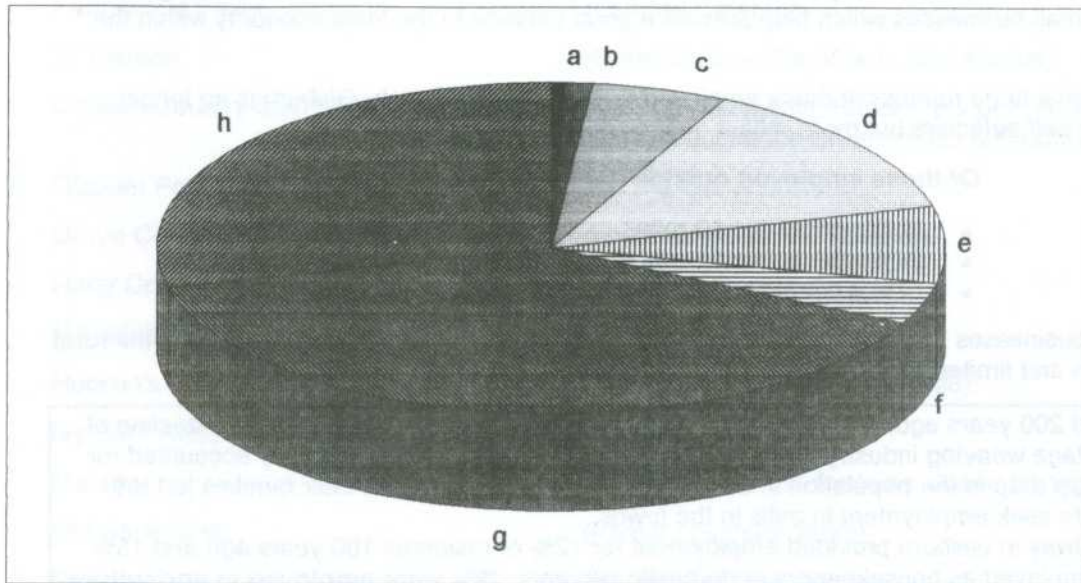
(a) Housing Association	1
(b) Non Permanent	2
(c) Local Authority	9
(d) Work Tied	23
(e) Private Rented (Unfurnished)	13
(f) Private Rented (Furnished)	7
(g) Buying	65
(h) Owner Occupied	49

AGE OF PROPERTIES

Pre 1900	55
1901-30	5
1931-50	2
1951-70	17
1971-80	7
1981-90	14
1991-+	1*

(* see note 1)

Note 1. Since the questionnaire was completed, 18 new properties have become available at "Travellers Court". (built on the site of the former Commercial Hotel)



Most people answering the questionnaire are of the opinion that the village does not need developing greatly in the future.

- 13% were not in favour of any further development.
- 41.5% think conversion of redundant buildings would be acceptable.
- 10.5% thought infilling with single buildings should be allowed.
- 11.5% Infilling with groups of three or less.
- 16.5% "No expansion on the edge of the village".
- 7% " Other"

Of the number of houses built over the last ten years, those answering the question thought:-

- 43% "about right".
- 37% "too many".
- 3% "too little".
- 17% had no opinion.

Out of 271 people who answered the questionnaire, 92% said their present accommodation was suitable for their needs.

Of the remaining 8%, regarding shared equity, although no one wanted this type of accommodation, 2 people said they may be prepared to consider it.

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

The Parish of Gisburn is still a working community unlike many other rural villages, 46% of those employed work within the Parish.

Profile of Employment:

• 17 to Retirement (Not in Employment)	34
• Over Retirement Age	51
• 16 and Under	87
• 17 to Retirement (In Employment)	181

The village, although not dependant on any single business, is highly dependant on agriculture and allied trades and any adverse effect on the industry could have a significant impact on Gisburn.

A number of businesses rely on the tourist industry and there are also a diverse range of other small businesses which help provide a good balance to the local economy within the Parish.

Although a large number of those employed work within the Parish, Gisburn is no longer entirely self sufficient but more reliant on jobs outside the village.

Of those employed outside the Parish:

- 23% work within 10 miles
- 24% work within 11 - 30 miles
- 7% work over 30 miles away.

Some businesses employ specialist workers from outside the parish, and because of the rural location and limited public transport, private transport is usually required.

Around 200 years ago, 24% of men in Gisburn were employed as weavers. The decline of the cottage weaving industry during the industrial revolution almost certainly accounted for the sharp drop in the population in the 19th century as weavers and their families left the Parish to seek employment in mills in the towns.

The railway in Gisburn provided employment for 12% of residents 100 years ago and 15% were employed as housekeepers or domestic servants. **29% were employed in agriculture.**

Mechanisation has had a significant impact on labour requirements in the agricultural industry and today only 20% are now employed in this industry.

In the past, a large number of trades and craftsmen relied on agriculture for their business. Much of the work undertaken by Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights and Millers was directly related to farming or processing of agricultural products.

In the 1891 census return, all four Innkeepers in the village were also listed as farmers.

'THE RIBBLE VALLEY BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY' is a guide to commercial activities carried out in the Borough. It enables Companies to identify suppliers of products and services, and promote inter-trading. Gisburn businesses listed in the current directory (April 1996) are:-

- R.A.Cornthwaite.(Carpentry and Joinery)
- Duckworths Coaches.(Coach holidays and private hire)
- Gisburn Auction Mart Ltd (Livestock Auctioneers)
- Gisburne Park Ltd. (Private Hospital)
- Hodsons of Gisburn.(Petrol Retailing and Coach Hire)
- Lindley Pate (Gisburn) Ltd.(Agric:& Dairy Engineers / Veterinary Supplies)
- Railside Trading.(Home-grown timber Sawmill)
- John Lund (Gisburn) Ltd.(Steel Fabrication)
- Rose County Foods.(Wholesale Butchers and Meat Packers)
- Stirk House.(Hotel)

OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE PARISH. (August 1996) (In alphabetical order)

Able Care Mobility	(Stairlifts & Mobility Equipment).
A.F.plc (Preston Farmers)	(Agricultural Supplies).
Bowland Pottery	(Specialist Bone China producers).
Cottage Restaurant	(Salads, Grills and Teas).
David Lowe	(Butcher).
Dudland Kennels	(Kennels and Cattery).
End House Stud	(Equine Facility).
Enigma	(Fleet Car Hire).
Farmhouse Fayre	(Outside Caterers).
77 Garage	(Petrol & Derv, Car Wash, Mini Market).
Gisburn Country Store and Diner	(Self service meals, Snacks, p.y.o. Fruit & Veg, Own produced Ice Cream, Gifts & Produce etc).
Gisburn Post Office	(P.O. & General Store).
Grove Cottage Restaurant	(Lunches, Teas and Dinners).
Harry Driver	(Structural Engineer).
H.T.Waddington	(Builder & Contractor).
Hudson's	(Tea Rooms - closed Sept 1996).
Ivy Barn Antiques	(Antique Shop).
Matador	(Windshield Wiper Systems-closed Spring1997).
Old Bank Shop	(Plants / General Store).
Panama	(Equine Facility).
Park House Hotel	(B + B, Meals, Tea & Coffee).
Phoenix Embroidery	(Machine Embroidered Emblems / Motifs).
Ribblesdale Arms Hotel	(Public House / Children's Play Area).
Rose Alley	(Hairdressers - closed 1997).
Trucut	(Material Cutters).
White Bull Hotel	(Public House - closed 13th Sept 1997).

Working Farms in the Parish:-

(In alphabetical order)

Bomber. Coppice. Cow Gill. Crow Park. Gisburn Cotes. Gisburn Cotes Hall. Greengates. Home Farm. Leewarden. Little Dudlands. Moor Laithe. Shuttleworth Hall. Westby Hall. Willcross.

Gisburn Auction Mart Ltd. The last "Old Fair" at Gisburn was held on the 16th October 1911 when cattle and sheep were sold in the main street. The Company then moved to their present and more suitable location. This was particularly convenient for animals arriving and departing by railway. Today, sales of cattle and sheep are held weekly on Thursdays and alternate Saturdays.

LOCAL BUSINESS SURVEY

The survey of local businesses as part of a village appraisal was a completely new venture of which Gisburn are pioneers. The results have helped to give a very useful and interesting picture of our business community.

Of those businesses (not including farms) responding to the questions, the following results apply:-

How long has your business been established?

0 - 2 Years	12%
3 - 10 Years	28%
Over 10 Yrs	60%

Why is your business located in Gisburn?

(Responses in descending order, more than one reason may apply)

- Conveniently situated for business needs
- Lived here prior to establishing business
- Family ties with area
- Established family business
- Rural location
- Other

Are business premises suited to your needs? 100% replied "YES"

How many people does the business employ?

<u>Full Time</u>		<u>Part Time</u>	
1 - 5	79%	1 - 5	76%
6 - 10	0%	6 - 10	0%
11 - 20	5%	11 - 20	12%
20 +	16%	20 +	12%

How do you recruit your workers?

Word of mouth	36%
Clitheroe Advertiser	31%
Jobcentre	23%
Other	10%

Do your workers need specialised training?

YES	57%
NO	43%

Reasons given for difficulty in recruiting workforce:-

- Rural location.
- Lack of transport.
- Competitive for catering staff.
- Lack of qualified staff.

25% of those who returned their questionnaire said their business was affected by tourism.

The following are a sample of comments made in response to the Business Questionnaire:-

Advantages of Gisburn as a business location.

- My customers are in surrounding area.
- Central for business purposes.
- Central to several large auction marts.
- Rural location / close to auction mart (due to our particular trade).
- Easy access to motorway network.
- Rural, yet near larger population.
- Access and attraction of area.
- Passing trade.
- Flexible / cheap tenancy agreement available.
- Combination of relatively easy access to motorway / road network, high volume of passing potential customers, pleasant village location.

Disadvantages of Gisburn as a business location.

- Insufficient services (shops, professional) lack of facilities.
- Staff travelling in.
- Parking.
- No access to rail network
- Lack of gas supply.
- Business rates as high as those in town without same number to support business.
- Traffic
- Rather far from towns.
- No variety in business.
- Not near main motorways

What are the greatest concerns you have about your business?

- Business rates.
- Lack of support for established business.
- Declining profits, increasing outgoings.
- Business rates rising from £5,000 to £11,000 in one increase.
- Regulations and their cost.
- Bureaucratic Interference.
- Difficulty in recruiting qualified staff.
- Reduction in trade.
- Advertising signage.

What are the greatest concerns you have about the local economy?

- Not enough local support.
- Too much bias to tourist trade for short periods of the year.
- Strict planning regulations.
- Possible decline in farming prosperity.
- Village shops closing down.
- The village must be a viable visit.

What effect do you consider your business has on the local community?

(In descending order, more than one reason may apply)

- Provides a service
- Assists other local businesses by using their goods and / or services.
- Creates employment
- Brings people to the village
- Donates to local organisations
- Provides a community meeting place

(Only one business said they considered they had no effect on the local community).

Only 8 businesses said they use business information or advice services:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Rural Development Commission (RDC)
(described by one business as the most helpful) | 4 |
| • Ribble Valley Enterprise Agency (RVEA) | 2 |
| • East Lancs Training & Enterprise Agency (ELTEC) | 2 |
| • Ribble Valley Tourist Information Centre | 1 |
| • English Tourist Board | 1 |
| • Red Rose Cottages (Clitheroe) | 1 |
| • Ribble Valley Borough Council | 1 |

Are you aware of what assistance or business support is currently available to enable your business to be more successful?

YES	58%
NO	42%

What specific information or advice would most help your business?

- Grants available for expansion.
- Development Grants.
- "Where to get more trade from".
- Making small businesses aware of what support is available.

RETAIL SERVICES AND OTHER FACILITIES

Our retail services and facilities are also used by residents of neighbouring villages and hamlets who do not have their own facilities, (including Paythorne, Newsholme, Horton-in Craven, Middop and Rimington who recently lost their own Post Office).

Residents shop in the village for the following reasons:- (More than one reason could be given)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| • Need "last minute" items | 73% |
| • Like to support local shops | 62% |
| • Saves time | 31% |
| • Like the social contact | 29% |
| • Saves transport costs | 22% |
| • Dont have transport to go elsewhere | 9% |
| • Other | 3% |

In 1260 Henry III granted to the abbots and monks of Sawley a charter which allowed a weekly market in Gisburn on Mondays, and an annual 3 day fair, the object of which was to allow sale of goods which were not normally available, such as leather goods and wooden vessels.

At the start of the 19th century, goods were often supplied by packmen, peddlers and carts. In 1821 Gisburn had in its population, 4 Butchers, 4 Grocers, 7 Tailors, 7 Boot and Shoemakers (people needed more footwear as they walked everywhere.) 3 Victuallers, a Tea Dealer, a Linen Draper, a Milliner and Dressmaker and a Spirit Merchant.

Those who use the counter service at Gisburn Post Office said they use it as follows:-

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| • More than 10 times a Month | 17% |
| • Between 5 and 10 times a Month | 35% |
| • Less than 5 times a Month | 48% |

66 people said they never use the counter service.

The main reasons people say they use the local Post Office, and those who use these services most - (in descending order) -in proportion to their age groups, are as follows:-

POSTAL SERVICES

(Used by 67%)

Females	60 to 64
Males	65 to 74
Females	17 to 21

T.V.LICENCES

(Used by 27%)

Males	60 to 74
Females	65 to 74
Females	75 +

PENSIONS / ALLOWANCES

(Used by 25%)

Males	65 to 74
Females	75 +
Males	75 +

GIROBANK / SAVINGS

(Used by 10%)

Females	60 to 64
Females	22 to 39
Males	65 to 74

These results show quite clearly the importance of the Post Office to the older residents of the Parish.

RETAIL OUTLETS (August 1996)

<u>A.F.plc</u> (formerly Preston Farmers)	Suppliers of animal feeds, agricultural supplies, fertilizers, clothing and groceries.
<u>Country Store and Diner</u>	Opened in August 1996, the self service diner (10am - 6pm Mon - Sun) specialises in ice cream made on site and seasonal pick-your-own fruit and vegetables. A range of food produce and gifts are on sale.
<u>David Lowe (Butcher)</u>	Mr Lowe re-opened our butchers shop in Jan 1994, following its unfortunate closure in Jan 1993. Meat, poultry, cheese, home made pies and sausage rolls are on sale.
<u>Deerpark Garage</u>	Petrol and Derv sales, M.O.T. testing & vehicle servicing, Mini Market, car wash, Garden plants and sundries.
<u>77 Garage</u>	Petrol and Derv sales, car wash facilities, garden plants and sundries, Mini Market.
<u>Gisburn Post Office and General Store.</u> (<u>"Corner Shop"</u>)	<u>Post Office:-</u> Girobank, National Savings, Postal Services, T.V.Licences, Electricity and Telephone payments etc; <u>Shop:-</u> General Store, Newsagents, Lottery Ticket sales, Dry Cleaning agency, 24 hour Photographic service, Off Licence etc; (see also Page 48).
<u>Ivy Barn (Antiques)</u>	Antique Shop.
<u>Lindley Pate (Gisburn) Ltd</u>	Established in Gisburn in 1912 as Wheelwrights, Joiners and Undertakers, the business now provides an extensive range of agricultural supplies and services, including livestock and commercial trailers.
<u>Old Bank Shop</u>	Garden Plants and general store.

OTHER FACILITIES. (August 1996)

<u>Cottage Restaurant</u>	Serves salads, grills and teas during the daytime, and from 7pm to 9pm Fridays and Saturdays.
<u>Grove Cottage Restaurant</u>	Lunches, Teas and Dinners, Tues to Sun from 12 noon. (Sat until 9pm).
<u>Hudsons Tea Rooms</u>	(Closed September 1996).
<u>Park House Hotel</u>	Bed & breakfast, morning coffee, lunches, teas and dinners.
<u>Ribblesdale Arms Hotel</u>	Public House & children's play area.
<u>Stirk House Hotel</u>	Residential Hotel and functions.
<u>White Bull Hotel</u>	Public House. (Closed 13th Sept 1997).
<u>Rose Alley</u>	Hair Dressers. (Closed 1997).

There are three doorstep milk delivery services available to the village offering milk, cream, eggs etc :-

- Jimmy & Avril Frankland. (Producer retail)
- F.H.Wrathall & Son. (Producer retail)
- Peter Smith. (Retail only)

David Kendall (Mobile Fish Van) Fresh fish - Thursday mornings.

Council Tax (Mobile Collection) Van visits Gisburn fortnightly on Tuesdays, between 2pm and 2.45pm at Travellers Court.

EDUCATION

Pre School.

Gisburn Playgroup started in 1970, it is held 3 mornings a week in the Festival Hall.

For even younger children there is a Mother and Toddler (Tiny Tots) group, which started in 1986 and meets on Thursday afternoons also in the Festival Hall.

The retention of pre school groups in Gisburn is essential because of travelling distance to and from other pre school facilities, and because children can progress naturally from Tiny Tots to Playgroup and into our own local school.

Primary School.

Gisburn County Primary School premises are a combination of old and modern buildings.

The school serves Gisburn and neighbouring parishes of Rimington, Paythorne, Newsholme, Horton Sawley and Middop. A number of children from other areas also attend the school.

The number of children on the school roll in September 1996 was 114. The school has four full-time teachers, one part-time teacher, 1 nursery nurse and 2 non teaching assistants.

In June 1996, the school was inspected under the Education (Schools) Act 1992, when standards were found to be above the national average in most subjects.

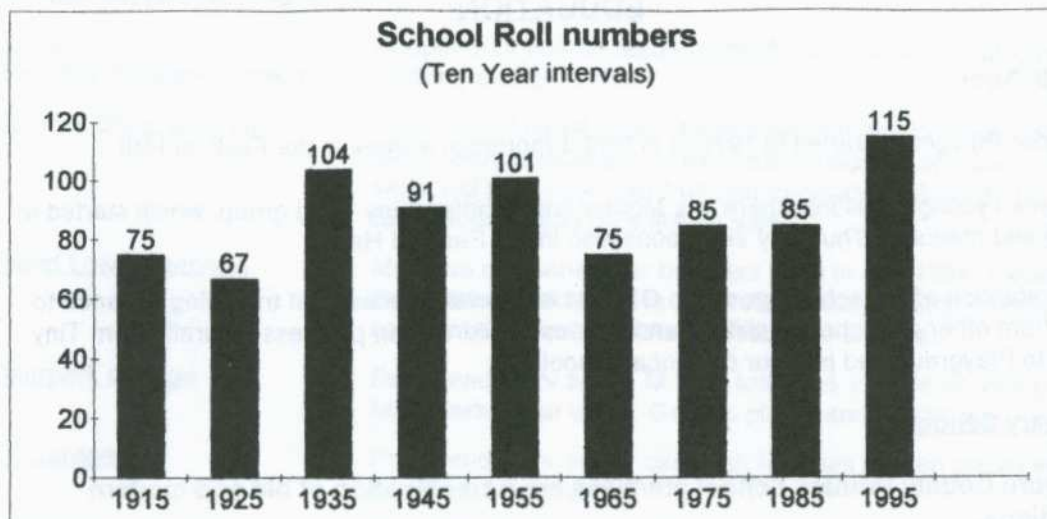


Gisburn National School room opened in 1875, in the building which is now Gisburn Festival Hall. The building accommodated 118 children at 8 square feet per child. By 1905, 76 children were registered on the school roll.

Gisburn new Council School opened in its present location on September 27th 1913. The total cost of the school and house including the land (purchased from Lord Ribblesdale) was £1,721. Half this cost was met by the West Riding County Council, the remainder fell on the local rates. The money was borrowed at 3.5 per cent, repayments were spread over a period of 30 years. The school was built to accommodate approximately 100 children, and became a County Primary School on the 23rd August 1949, admitting children up to the age of 11 yrs only.

Head Teachers:-

Pre 1898 to 1901		Mr Alex Mack.
1901 to 1908	(7years)	Miss Edith Pye.
1908 to 1911	(3)	Miss Jane Esden.
1911 to 1921	(10)	Mr Percy Parkinson.
1921 to 1933	(12)	Mr Reginald Pye.
1933 to 1962	(29)	Mr John S. Precious.
1963 to 1967	(4)	Mr Jack Cross.
1967 to 1985	(18)	Mr Dan Packer.
1985 to date		Mrs Jackie Hargreaves.



Local school closures which affected Gisburn school roll numbers:-

- Rimington
- Paythorne
- Sawley



In answer to a question regarding **local secondary school preference**, where an examination or entrance test is not required, the most popular choice of parents with children under the age of 11 years was Bowland, with Ribblesdale a close second.

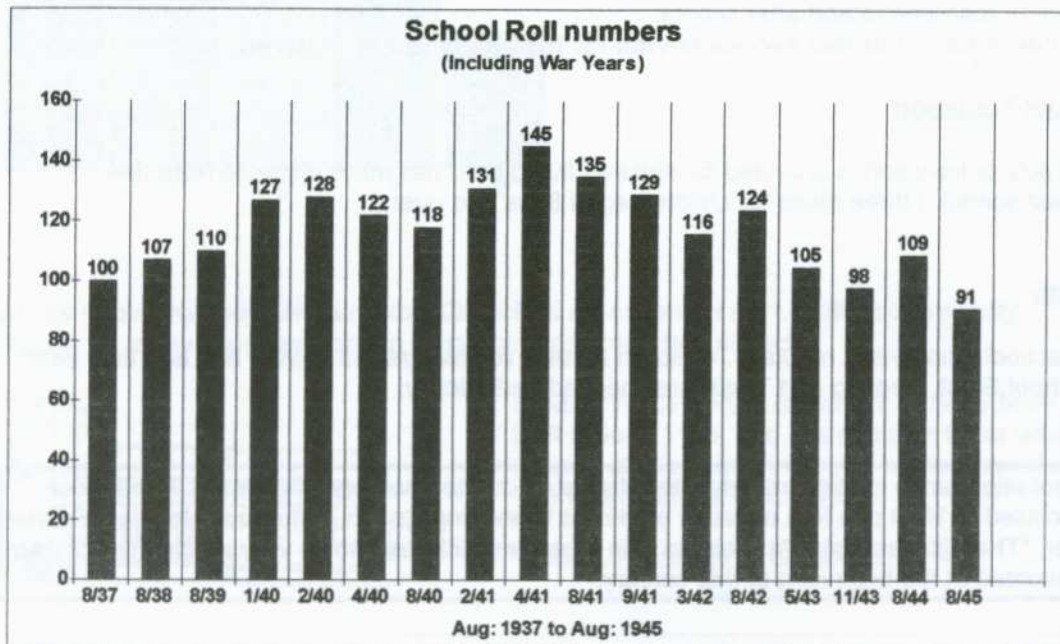
Destination of (year 6) July leavers from Gisburn C.P. School						
	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
BOWLAND	4	10	9	5	11	5
C.R.Grammar School	4	6	3		1	1
RIBBLESDALE SCHOOL	1	2	2		3	3
WEST CRAVEN	4	1		1		
Skipton High School (girls)			1	1		
St WILFREDS (B'burn)	1		1		1	
Queen Elizabeths (B'burn)		1				
Westholme (Blackburn)					1	
Queen Elizabeth School (Kirby Lonsdale)					1	
Primet County High School (Colne)						1
Ermysteds (Skipton)	3					

In 1933 Gisburn School was described as "The finest school in the area which ought to have an 'up to date' lighting installation".

The two principle rooms were without any light at all, and on dark mornings the teachers could not give the usual lessons but had to stand by the windows and read to the scholars until full daylight came. In the afternoon in winter it was often dark too at 3 o'clock.

Oil lamps of sufficient power would cost an estimated £17.10s, Electric lights would cost an estimated £25. The County Authority were to be asked to install electric lights in the school.

The second world war made a significant impact on school life. The school roll fluctuated frequently between 1939 and 1945, as evacuees from Bradford, Manchester, London and Brighton (danger zones and bombed areas) came and went.



At one point there were 37 evacuees in the school. Temporary seating and desk accommodation had to be squeezed into the schoolrooms. Temporary teaching staff were sent from Bradford and Brighton.

The head teacher Mr J S Precious, was required to be absent from school on several occasions in his capacity as the local reception and billeting officer.

Local policeman P.C. Bromwich visited the school occasionally to inspect the Gas -Masks and their boxes, and give children drill in putting on and taking off masks with a 5 minute wearing period.

'Anti Splinter' material was pasted onto the inside of external windows, and to both sides of all internal windows throughout the school to help prevent injury through flying glass in the event of bombing.

Air Raid warning practices were frequently held, and several Air Raid Warning "Red Alerts" were given. Children had to be assembled in the school yard and dispersed to houses in the village until the "All Clear" siren was given.

When neighbouring Chatburn was bombed, children were required to lie down on the floor "Top to Tail" in the corridor, as there was insufficient time for them to be evacuated to the village.

School Meals

School dinners cost £1.30 per day. Meals are transported in containers from St James' school in Clitheroe. The schools own kitchens are no longer used to prepare meals.

School dinners were first served at Gisburn school on the 28th August 1944. The cost was 5d (2p) per day and meals were transported in containers from the "Barnoldswick Kitchen". Arrangements went well on that day with the exception that meat pie and cabbage were short in quantity. The new scheme was to cover a period during which Gisburn schools own kitchen was to be built.

School Crossing Patrol

Provided by Lancashire Police Authority, the "Lollipop Lady" is authorised to stop traffic on the A682 (south) outside the school gates, whilst children cross this busy and dangerous stretch of road before and after school.

The continuation of this service is vital for the safety of our children.

School Transport

Free school transport is provided for children living over two miles distance from their nearest school. (three miles for children aged 8 yrs and over).

Health

The school nurse visits regularly. Children receive routine checks in their first and final year at school. Sight, Hearing and Teeth are checked periodically.

School attendance in Gisburn was often disrupted due to a variety of illnesses. The school was closed in 1880 due to a measles epidemic. Whooping Cough, Influenza, Measles, Scarlet Fever, "The Sickness" and "a dreadful skin disease which resembles very much' the itch'," are all recorded at the beginning of this century.

In 1941 during the "Annual dental treatment" 86 children were treated, 117 extraction's, 106 fillings and 25 OT (possibly "other treatment") were recorded.

F.O.G.S.(The Friends of Gisburn School)

(see also social activities section)

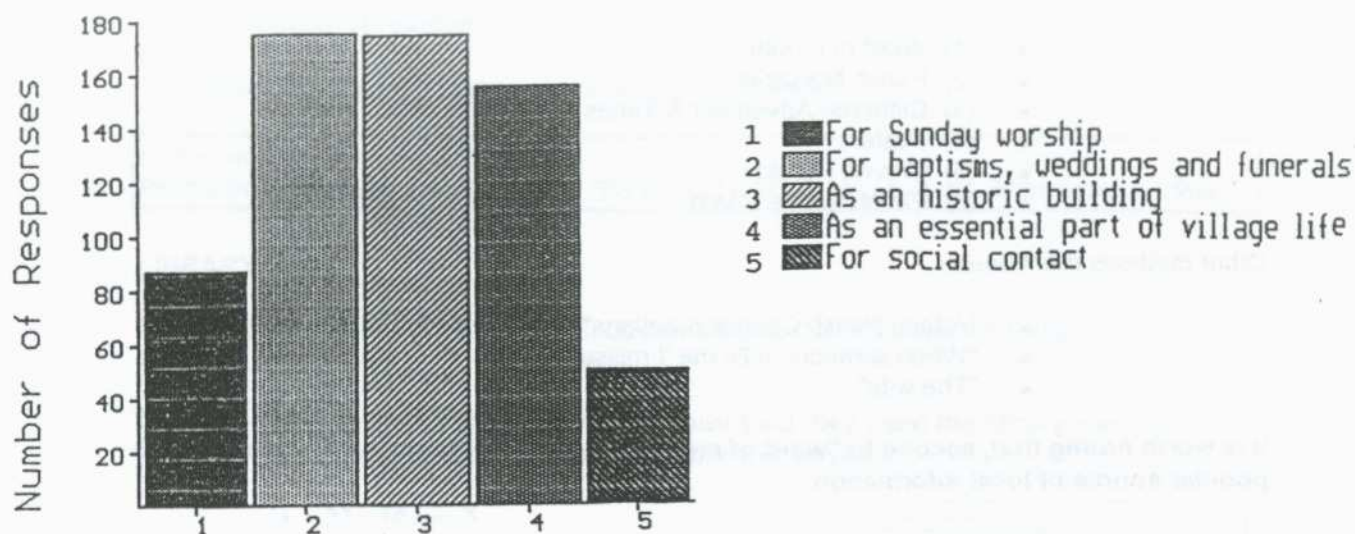
FOGS organise several fund-raising functions each year. Money raised at these events has been used to purchase computers, musical instruments, a play house, books, technology equipment and much more, for the benefit of all children at the school.

Conservation.

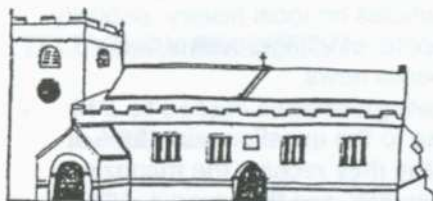
The school are hoping to introduce a conservation area into their grounds. A pond area would be created, the growth of wild flowers and many other forms of wild life would be encouraged. The area would have nesting boxes, bird tables and feeders. Seating would be provided to enable children and adults to sit quietly and enjoy the surroundings. Such a project would be a great asset to the school and community and would allow children to benefit from an appreciation of nature at an early age.

RELIGION

80% of those answering the questionnaire said the Church was important to them, and gave the following reasons:-



Results show that people think the Church is an essential part of the community, although for many, Sunday worship is not the most important aspect.



St MARYS CHURCH is thought to have been built around 1135, and it is possible there was a place of Worship on this site earlier than this. The first recorded Priest was :-

"Renulf. Presbyter of Gisburne in 1140".

Historical Note:

Oliver Cromwell stayed for a night or two at Gisburne, his troops stabled their horses in the Church and broke the stained glass windows.

- The tower is 14th Century, inside are six bells dated 1818.
- The clock, made in 1852 by Thomas Whip of Rochdale was repaired and overhauled in 1964, it strikes only on the hour.
- The Church has been restored several times. In 1873 the sum of £3000 was spent on re-roofing and installing new pews, pulpit and other modifications. A grant for this work was received from Queen Ann's Bounty, re-payments took until 1925 to pay off the sum.
- The stained glass windows have been installed over the years as memorials. The (south) window in the Ribblesdale Chapel includes fragments of medieval stained glass.

A substantial conversion project has taken place within the tower during the last year, which has resulted in the creation of a 'Utility Room' at the base of the tower with an upper room immediately above forming a 'Bell Ringing Chamber'.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

In answer to the question "How do you find out what goes on in the Parish?" The answers (in descending order) were as follows:-

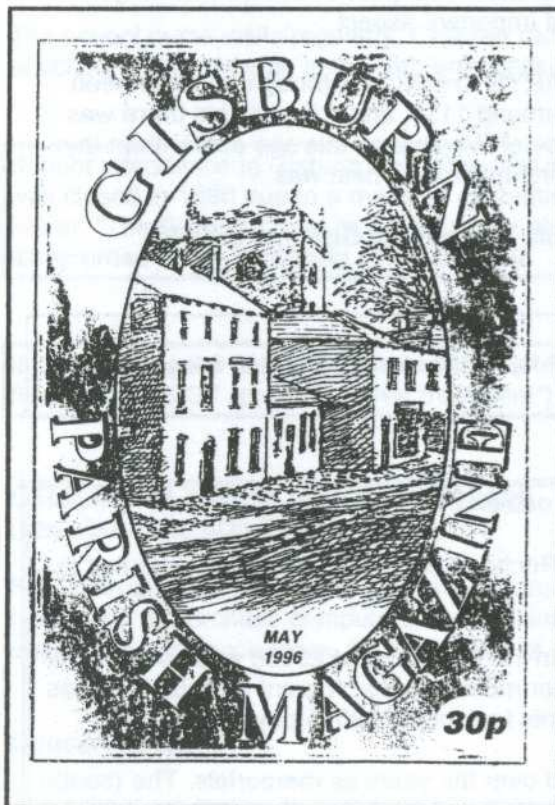
- (1) Word of mouth
- (2) Parish Magazine
- (3) Clitheroe Advertiser & Times
- (4) Posters
- (5) Craven Herald
- (6) Parish Notice Board

Other methods mentioned:-

- "Attend Parish Council meetings"
- "When someone tells me 'I missed it' "
- "The wife"

It is worth noting that, second to "word of mouth", the Parish Magazine is the most popular source of local information.

GISBURN PARISH MAGAZINE



Currently produced by The Rev: Canon G.Walker and his team of helpers, we have a very popular parish magazine. As well as Church news, the magazine contains articles on local history, publicity for and reports of village events, and Parish Council news.

In response to the questionnaire, 86% of residents say they receive the magazine, and of those 85% say they read it, 15% say they never read it.

People said they would like the parish magazine to contain more items on:-

- * Reports of past local events
- * "Dates for your diary"
- * Future local events
- * Local History
- * Parish Council issues.

A great deal of effort goes into producing the magazine, however, articles do not write themselves, and anyone is invited to submit items of local interest, whether they be on a regular or one-off basis.

A variety of articles from different sources may help to produce an even better Parish Magazine.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

41% of those answering the questionnaire regularly look at the notice boards, whilst 59% never look at them.

A large number of residents would like to see a notice board situated outside the Post Office.

The present sites were chosen to avoid weather problems.

Historical note...

Permission to site the notice board at "Farthings" was granted by Lord Ribblesdale in 1909.

LIBRARY VAN

The mobile library van provided by Lancashire County Council visits the village every Thursday morning.

Only 8% of those answering the questionnaire said they used the library van, the following are numbers of each age group who use this service:-

- 11 - 16 ----3
- 17 - 21 ----0
- 22 - 39 ----9
- 40 - 59 ----4
- 60 - 64 ----4
- 65 - 74 ----1
- 75 + ----2



TELEVISION RECEPTION

- 64% of people answering the questionnaire said they had difficulty with T.V. reception.
- Different households reported problems with different channels.
- One household complained that reception had deteriorated since the building of the houses at Travellers Court.
- Several suggested that a Booster be installed to improve reception in Gisburn and some would prefer to receive "Granada" rather than "Y.T.V."

TELEPHONE BOX

99% of those households answering the questionnaire have a telephone, however, the public 'phone box is a vital and well used facility for many of the huge number of travellers who pass through the village every day.

In the early part of this century, the quickest, most accurate and discreet means of communication available in the village was by telegram via Gisburn Post Office. Whilst the pre-war service was good, this deteriorated during the first world war and complaints were received about great delays, inaccuracy and lack of secrecy due to the system of despatch and receipt of telegrams by telephone, which was used in Gisburn at that time.

POSTAL SERVICE

ROYAL MAIL COLLECT AND DELIVER POST FOR GISBURN

Collection Times

Mon:-.-Fri:

11-15am. & 3.30pm

Sat: & Good Friday

11.15am

Sun: & Bank.Holidays

11.am

Mon:-.-Fri:

Later . Collection

Clitheroe.Branch Office
King .Street

6.pm

**APPROXIMATE DELIVERY TIMES IN THE PARISH ARE BETWEEN 8AM AND 9.30AM
MON - FRI, AND SLIGHTLY EARLIER ON SATURDAYS.
COLLECTIONS FROM BUSINESSES CAN BE MADE BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ROYAL
MAIL**

GISBURN'S REGULAR POSTMAN IS PETER RYAN.

The business questionnaire highlighted the fact that for those whose customers demand a quick response by post, the 3.30pm last collection is too early, A special journey to the Post Office in Clitheroe is then required.

In 1822 letters arrived at Gisburn Post Office from Skipton at 9am and departed at 11am.

Gisburn had its own carrier - Henry Leach - who left for Blackburn on Mondays at 4am and returned at 10pm.

On Thursdays and Saturdays the carrier departed to Skipton at 8am returning at 10pm.

A Post Chaise service (horse drawn carriage for hire) was run from the 'Old George' public house in Gisburn (now the Ribblesdale Arms Hotel) this would probably have been used to carry mail to and from the village.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Community social activities in Gisburn centre mainly around the Village Hall, Church, School, Playing Fields and Public Houses. There are a variety of local social organisations and many of the fund-raising events held in the village are also important as social occasions.

The annual GISBURN GALA has been held every year since 1964. As well as raising much needed funds for our village hall, it is a marvellous community social event.

The Church, School and local organisations hold many other events both large and small, all of which allow people to "get together." All those who work hard to organise and run these events, should also take credit for helping to keep the community spirit alive.

Activities such as tidying up the Churchyard or Cenotaph are also important as social activities, as is chatting outside school or playgroup whilst waiting to collect children.

The chart below gives the number of **Gisburn** residents involved in existing social activities. It does not cover a significant number of residents from surrounding villages and hamlets who are involved in social activities in Gisburn, and to whom our facilities are also important. The chart shows that those who benefit most from local organisations are the young and senior members of the community and women with young children.

Which existing regular social activities are you involved in ?

Age Group		11 - 16	17 - 21	22-64 (M)	65+(M)
				22-59 (F)	60+(F)
Whist Drive	M	0	0	1	1
	F	0	0	2	8
Young Farmers	M	2	0	2	1
	F	1	0	2	1
Womens Institute	M	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	9	8
Playgroup and Tiny Tots	M	0	0	1	1
	F	0	0	15	0
Monday Club	M	0	0	0	2
	F	0	0	1	7
St Mary's Youth Club	M	6	0	2	0
	F	3	0	3	0
Mothers Union	M	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	4
Pool	M	0	0	6	1
	F	0	0	0	0
R & D Gardening Club	M	0	0	2	4
	F	0	0	8	8

It is noticeable that only 1/3rd of the 11-16 age group, and none of the 17-21 age group resident in Gisburn, say they are involved in any of these social activities.

110 people answered the question regarding new clubs they would like to see formed. The most popular were (in descending order):-

Local History	(37 people)
Painting & Drawing	(28)
Bowling	(25)
Photography	(20)
Rambling	(20)
Needlework	(18)
Bell Ringing	(16)

GISBURN FESTIVAL HALL is a registered charity held in trust by Gisburn Parish Council. It is managed by a voluntary committee (currently numbering 17 people) which consists of a representative of each organisation which use the hall, along with four members elected at the Annual Public Meeting (held in April) and three co-opted members. The hall is funded by hire charges and voluntary fund-raising.



The management committee meet monthly in the Festival Hall, and try to ensure that the hall is properly used and available for use by all residents of the Parish. They also organise fund-raising and try to encourage careful use of resources, both of which help keep hire charges to a minimum, whilst keeping the hall well maintained and as up to date as possible.

The annual GISBURN GALA (held in May) and monthly whist and domino drives (Sept to May) are the main sources of fund-raising.

Most of the local organisations benefit from, and appreciate, the use of the village hall which is particularly important to many young and senior members of the community.

The hall is also used as a voting station during local and national elections, for exhibitions, parish council and public meetings, private parties and any other local functions which arise.

The hall, built in 1877 was originally GISBURN NATIONAL SCHOOL. In 1913 it became GISBURN PARISH ROOMS. On the 15th June 1951 the hall was given by deed of gift to the village of Gisburn to be held in trust by Gisburn Parish Council without political or religious bias. The donors of the gift were the late:- Harold Hindley Esq, William Heaton Esq and Edward William Fattorini Esq. The management committee then began the task of raising funds to enlarge and renovate the existing hall. The work was completed in 1959. The hall was named **Gisburn Festival Hall** because 1951 was 'Festival of Britain' year.

The following groups regularly use the village hall for social activities.

Playgroup / Tiny Tots

(See education section - page 15).

Monday Club

Meet each Monday afternoon. Open to all for social activities, tea, and occasional guest speakers including various local individuals and those from such organisations as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Benefits - Agency etc;

Womens Institute

Meet on the first Thursday of each Month. Gisburn W.I. was formed in 1949, and is affiliated to both the Lancashire and National Federations. Among a variety of activities, talks and demonstrations are given by outside speakers, excursions are organised, the Institute enters exhibits in the annual Clitheroe and District W.I. show and an annual walk is held. The W.I. also holds an annual Christmas Fair.

St Mary's Youth Club

Meet on Friday evenings. Young people aged 10 and over are able to meet friends and enjoy a variety of activities.

Mothers Union	Meet on the second Tuesday of each Month (occasional meetings held in Rimington Memorial Institute). The M.U. hold an annual Silent Auction on the second Tuesday in October.
Rimington & District Gardening Club	Have regular monthly meetings. A Spring Flower and Bulb Show and a Summer Flower and Vegetable Show are held each year. (alternating with Rimington Memorial Institute).
Young Quilters	Meet on the second Saturday in each Month. Young members are instructed in the art of quilting, patchwork and appliqué.
Young Farmers Club	Meet each Monday evening, and enjoy a range of rural and social activities.
Line Dancing Class	Held each Wednesday (7pm to 8.30pm). The latest popular dance craze. (closed Sept 1997)



OTHER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN GISBURN

Friends of Gisburn School(F.O.G.S.)

Hold a number of fund-raising and social functions, mainly in the school, throughout the year. These include, an annual Fun Day in June, a Beetle Drive, Car Treasure Hunt, Hoe Down and Clothes Party.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council

Hold various fund-raising events throughout the year, including an annual Spring Fair held in May in the Festival Hall, and an annual Flower Festival / Exhibition in Church, held late August. Present fund-raising is for a new Oil Fired Boiler etc; for the central heating system.

Gisburn Beavers

Meet on Monday evenings when Girls and Boys aged 5 to 7 years are welcome to join in a variety of activities, (prior to joining Cubs or Brownies at the age of 8).

Public Houses in the village are the Ribblesdale Arms and the *White Bull Hotel. (*Closed Sept 1997).

Both have had teams entered in the Gisburn and District Pool League. The Stirk House Hotel in the Parish caters for larger social functions such as wedding receptions etc;

In 1933 it was reported that mothers in Gisburn were desirous of learning cooking at an evening school, and that "They rather resent their daughters coming home from school and telling them 'that is not the way to cook' and their daughters are usually right. Therefore, the mothers want to learn these new methods".

Playing Field (George's Croft)

The field was named George's Croft because it once was the property of the "Old George" public house (now the Ribblesdale Arms Hotel).

Gisburn Cricket Club played on the field for more than 100 years, celebrating its Centenary in the 1960's.

Summer Festivals known as "Gisburn Pageant" and "Gisburn Festival" during the earliest part of this century, and "Field Day" during the 1920s, where Gisburn Morris Dancers performed, were held on the field.

Many community events have taken place on the field over the years including the present day GISBURN GALA, which has been held on the field every single year for the past 34 years (1964 - 1997 inclusive).

The playing field was leased by the Gisburn Parish Council for a "peppercorn rent" of one shilling per year on a 30 year lease which expired in July 1997. A new lease is currently under negotiation with owners - GISBURN PARK ESTATES.

There was great concern expressed in the appraisal for the long term future of the playing field.

The children's play area was updated in 1991 to bring it up to the required safety standards. New play equipment was provided and bark replaced concrete.

There is a small pavilion on the field.

The cricket pitch, although not formally used at present, is an asset to the village which should be retained, as interest in the sport increases and decreases over the years.

The football pitch (0.5 ha) is suitable for five - a - side matches.

There is great enthusiasm among young people in the Parish for football. The goal nets have been damaged and need replacing. A higher fence behind the west end goal posts would help prevent footballs entering the neighbouring field and were Gisburn to enter a local league, a much larger area (1.0 ha) would be required.

SPORT

There are no formal sports clubs at present in Gisburn although football is very popular with many young people in the Parish. Bike riding, Roller Skating, and Roller Blading are also popular, and the introduction of small scale sports facilities, indoor and / or outdoor would be welcomed.

Bowling was the sport which most adults said they would be interested in and suggestions of a Basket ball net and a hard surface for ball games and Roller Skating (away from the busy main roads) have been made.

Pendle Forest and Craven Hunt hold an annual Point to Point Steeplechase each May. The event is currently held at Westby Hall Farm in the Parish.

VILLAGE TRADITIONS

Beating of the Bounds

Ordnance Survey maps now mark (Civil) Parish boundaries. Prior to this, it was traditional for a group of parishioners, led by the vicar, to walk their (Ecclesiastical) Parish boundaries, marking stones and trees. This took place around Rogationtide (the Mon, Tues, and Weds before Ascension Day).

This centuries old practice was re-introduced in Gisburn and a series of walks representing "The Beating of the Bounds" was undertaken in three stages :- May 1991 Rogation Sunday (Southern area). 24th May 1992 (North / East area). 16th May 1993 (North / West area).

Gisburn Morris Dancers.

Gisburn Morris Dancers performed at local village functions as far back as 1916 (possibly even earlier). Morris Dancers should, strictly speaking, always be male, but because Gisburn was a remote village it managed to get away with female Morris Dancers as well.

In 1935 during a May Day procession, Bob Capstick's horse and lorry was used to carry "BRITANNIA" and her retinue through the streets of Gisburn. The 8 strong Gisburn Morris team danced GISBURN PROCESSIONAL MORRIS, which, as the name suggests is one which is danced in a procession. The annual May Day celebrations ceased when the second world war began.

GISBURN PROCESSIONAL MORRIS is still well known and danced by Morris Dancers today.

Gisburn Gala and Gala Queen

In 1951 (Festival of Britain Year), fund-raising for the proposed extension of Gisburn village hall began with a week of activities.

At Gisburn's **Festival**, Ann Wilkinson was crowned 'Festival Queen'.

Gisburn held a **Carnival** in 1952, when Jean Taylor was 'Carnival Queen', Mary Precious was 'Carnival Queen' the following year.

The annual event, raising funds for the upkeep of the hall, became known as "**GISBURN GALA**" in 1964. A procession of floats was led by a band from the Auction Mart to the Commercial Hotel (now Travellers Court) and back to the playing field (Georges Croft) where fancy dress and floats were judged. The last procession through the village was held in 1991. Side-shows, Stalls and Competitions are held at the Gala. Teas, Ice-cream and barbecued sausages (supplied by Gisburn's local butcher) are served, and a barrel organ plays.

The tradition of selecting a queen was revived in 1991. A 'Gala Queen' is selected by a draw from class 4 at Gisburn School. Two attendants are selected from classes 3 and 4. After being crowned and leading the procession around the playing field, The Queen, wearing the original "cloak" (dating back to 1951) and her retinue are invited to attend village functions throughout their "year of office". They are now, also invited to the May Queen celebrations at Slaidburn.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Queen</u>	<u>Attendants</u>
1991	Helen Nicklin	Caroline Wigan. Alison Bargh.
1992	Abigail Game	Victoria Speight. Meryl Hughes.
1993	Leah Hodgkinson	Felicity Lloyd. Sarah Moorhouse.
1994	Alison Bargh	Mili Gupta. Nili Gupta.
1995	Lisa Bailey	Sara Calvert. Louise Baron.
1996	Felicity Lloyd	Helen Pate. Danielle Piccolo.
1997	Sara Calvert	Sarah Lancaster. Emily Asquith.

Maypole Dancing. Gisburn has its own Maypole, purchased in 1992 through donations, fund-raising and grants. An adult team was originally created who performed at Gisburn Gala in 1993. In 1996, junior children from Gisburn school formed a 16 member Maypole team, coached by teacher Mrs Stephanie Dugdale. The children are very enthusiastic and Maypole Dancing has become a popular and enjoyable attraction at Gisburn school annual "Fun Day" which is held in June.

TRANSPORT

- Gisburn has always been associated with transport. The Roman "Street" from Ribchester to Ilkley, passed through the Parish.
- During the turnpike era, Gisburn was an important place, there was stabling for a large number of horses at the rear of the Ribblesdale Arms Hotel.
- A weekend in August 1920 brought two record days for through traffic, mainly motor traffic. As many as 20 char-a-banc at any one time were seen to be standing in the village on Sunday morning, nearly all from the Leeds area making a temporary stay on the way to more distant places.

In answer to the question: **What is your major means of transport to work or study?**
The following answers were given:-

Car or Van	141	(62%)
Bus	21	(9%)
Train	5	(2%)
Bicycle	3	(1%)
On foot	21	(9%)
Other	3	(1%)
Not applicable	30	(13%)

=====

BUS SERVICE

How important is the bus service to you? The following replies were given in answer to the questionnaire:-

- **Essential** 15%
- **Important** 19%
- **Not Important** 8%
- **DO NOT USE THE BUS** 58%

Although 58% do not use the bus, it is possible that someone in their household may well do, thus saving them the need to make private transport arrangements for their dependants.

=====

On **Monday to Saturday**, buses run between Skipton and Preston with some continuing on to Southport. 8 buses each day between 8.05AM and 6.15PM travel eastwards out of Gisburn, 10 buses a day between 8.10AM and 7.29PM travel westward. The services are provided by 'Stagecoach', 'Ribble' and ABC Travel (Southport).

On **Tuesday and Thursday**, the Clitheroe to Gisburn circular leaves Gisburn at 10.45AM and returns at 2.10PM allowing just over two hours in Clitheroe. The circular calls at Todber Caravan Park, Howgill, Martin Top Chapel, Rimington, Downham and Worston before arriving in Clitheroe, the journey each way takes half an hour, and this service is provided by Lakeland Coaches'

There are no buses on Sundays.

Of those giving an opinion results were as follows, in answer to the question 'How do you rate the bus service for :-

	GOOD	REASONABLE	POOR
ITS ROUTE	29%	45%	26%
TIMETABLE	8%	49%	43%
RELIABILITY	30%	48%	22%
COST	11%	48%	41%

The last bus to Gisburn from Clitheroe leaves at 7.55PM and from Skipton 6.55PM. This does not allow time for a visit to the cinema or other night time social activities in the towns.

TRAIN SERVICE

- The railway at Gisburn was opened in 1885. As well as passenger trains, many animals were transported to and from Gisburn Market by rail, and milk from surrounding farms was transported by rail to dairies in towns and cities as far away as Liverpool.
- The railway at Gisburn closed in 1960 at the time of the "Beeching cuts". The Clitheroe to Hellifield line is still used for goods and occasional passenger services, but they do not stop at Gisburn.
- The former Station House is situated on Mill Lane and there is a small signal box to the west, both of which are privately owned.
- To the east of the former Gisburn Station is a railway tunnel with ornamental stone portals which was built at the insistence of Lord Ribblesdale who would not allow the railway to pass through the grounds of Gisburne Park unless underground.
- Further east along the line is the tall eight-span Stock Beck Viaduct.

If there was a rail stop in Gisburn, would you use it? 88% of those responding to this question said they would:-

- For work 14%
- For Pleasure 86%
- Weekdays 41%
- Weekends 59%
- Daily 9%
- Weekly 16%
- Monthly 27%
- Less often 36%
- Never 12%

A rail stop in Gisburn could benefit visitors to and businesses in the village. It would also provide a link with the Ribble Way footpath which passes through the village and may encourage less use of motor vehicles.

TRAFFIC

The village of Gisburn encircles the staggered cross-roads of the A59 (Liverpool to York) trunk road and the A682 (Nelson to Long Preston, where it joins the A65), Mill Lane (from Bolton-by-Bowland) and Park Road (adjoining the private road leading to Gisburne Park Hospital) also join the A59 in the village.

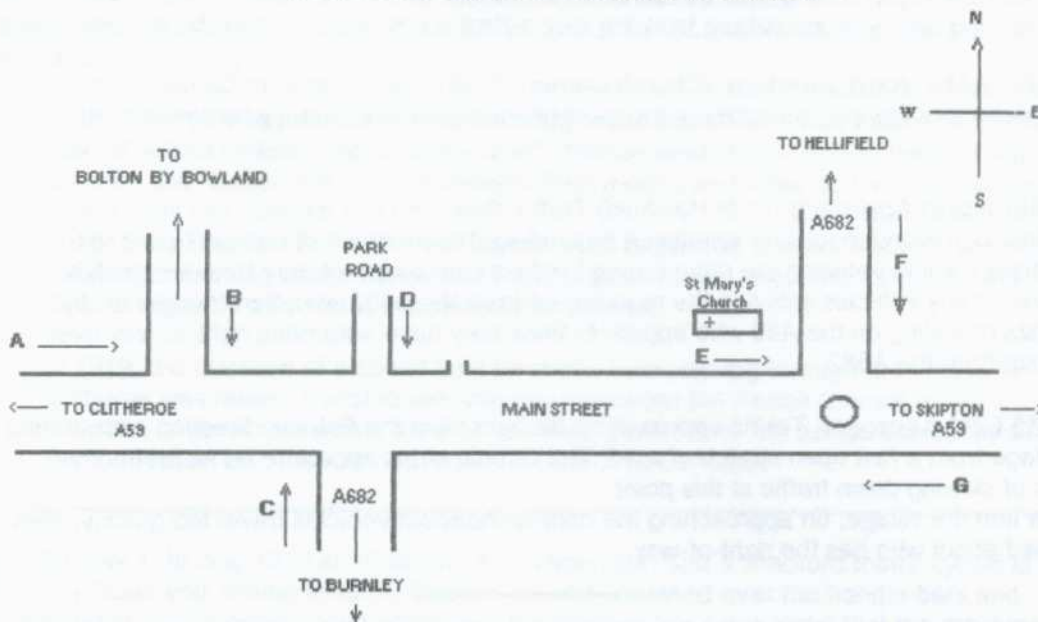
The subject of traffic caused most individual comment in the household questionnaire. The A59 was also mentioned frequently in the business questionnaire. Two thirds of those expressing an opinion said the village required a by-pass. The projected increase in the volume of traffic into the next century makes the need for a by-pass almost inevitable. Many of those who think a by-pass is not required are those who say their businesses rely on passing trade, and those who live away from the main road.

- **SPEED** Reluctance of motorists to slow down, particularly when approaching the A59/A682 junctions, is probably the main cause of accidents in the village. **People felt that more police presence was needed to slow down traffic**
- **VOLUME** A huge volume of traffic passes through the village each day. The volume increased greatly following a decision by Castle Cement to change from rail to road freight. A return to rail freight by Castle Cement would be of great benefit to Gisburn.
- **POLLUTION** Many of the dangers of pollution from vehicle exhaust fumes have only become widely known in recent years
- **WEIGHT** Recent E.E.C. legislation allows much heavier vehicles to travel through villages which were built in the days before motor vehicles were invented. Property damage caused by vibration from a high volume of heavy traffic along with the inability of many large vehicles to turn corners without mounting the pavements (P.O. corner and mini roundabout) causing extreme danger to pedestrians, were both mentioned by residents.
- **NOISE** The village suffers disturbance from vehicles with noisy exhausts, particularly motor cycles, and from heavy lorries, as they rattle over manholes, potholes and over the top of the mini-roundabout.

	<u>EAST- BOUND</u>			<u>WEST- BOUND</u>		
	<i>BEFORE</i> Calming (M.P.H.)	<i>AFTER</i> Calming (M.P.H.)	<i>SPEED</i> REDUCTION (M.P.H.)	<i>BEFORE</i> Calming (M.P.H.)	<i>AFTER</i> Calming (M.P.H.)	<i>SPEED</i> REDUCTION (M.P.H.)
Point where speed Check Taken						
Mill Lane / A59 Junction	38	32	-6	38	34	- 4
New Inn (Park Mews)	45	33	-12	45	35	-10
A59 Access to St Mary's Church	36	33	-3 **	36	34	- 2 **
Access to End House Cottages	41	40	-1	41	40	-1

** Since the introduction of the mini - roundabout, traffic travelling on the A59 no longer has automatic right of way. In which case these vehicles should be travelling at a considerably slower speed than previously. The chart shows very little change in speed at this point, indicating that motorists on the A59 travel too quickly.

VILLAGE TRAFFIC – PROBLEM AREAS



"A" West Approach (A59) On approach from the west, traffic slows down through the calming areas, but increases speed again by the auction mart (a number of people said that rumble strips like those at Cowan Bridge would be much more effective). The "hump" in the road between Bolton by Bowland road end (B) and the A682 Burnley road junction (C) has built up over the years each time the road has been re-surfaced, seriously decreasing visibility for vehicles which by this point have often built up speed again. This poses a danger to both vehicles waiting to turn right into Burnley road from Clitheroe direction, vehicles wishing to turn right towards Skipton out of the A682 Burnley road, to pedestrians, and to vehicles travelling in any direction out of Park Road (D).

"B" Mill Lane When exiting Mill Lane towards Skipton, or waiting to turn into Mill Lane from Skipton direction, the hump on the A59 (East) causes reduced visibility.

"C" A682 South Approach (from Burnley). It is more essential that traffic is slowed down even more on this stretch of road because of the School entrance, the entrance to the Playing Field, and the A59 junction at the bottom of the hill. Increased warning of the school entrance is required on the right hand side below Blind Lane when entering the village. The coloured areas on the road are thought to be totally ineffective and proper rumble strips (as at Cowan Bridge) should be introduced. Many people thought this A682 / A59 junction needed improvement, traffic flow is poor from the A682 into the A59, made worse by the "hump" on the A59 to the west which gives very poor visibility when exiting this junction together with the speed of vehicles travelling on the A59. The improved traffic flow from the mini-roundabout has made it more difficult to exit this junction at busy times as there are less 'gaps' in the traffic. A suggestion was made that a filter lane be introduced for traffic turning left off the A682 towards Clitheroe at the junction near the cenotaph.

"E" A59 / A682 North Junction. (Church Corner). Traffic travelling from Clitheroe on the A59 approaches the mini roundabout too quickly often confused about who has the right of way.

"F" A682 North Approach (from Hellifield) Traffic flow from this junction has improved since the mini roundabout was installed, it has reduced the amount of vehicle fumes in the immediate area as vehicles are not queuing for the same length of time to enter the A59. However, many vehicles entering the roundabout from the A682 are often "hooted at" by motorists travelling on the A59 who appear to think they have automatic right-of-way over motorists from the A682.

"G" A59 East Approach Traffic approaching Gisburn from the Skipton direction are entering the village from a fast open stretch of road. The rumble strips appear to be an ineffective means of slowing down traffic at this point. Further into the village, on approaching the mini-roundabout, vehicles travel too quickly, often confused about who has the right-of-way.

The following are a sample of accidents which have occurred at the mini-roundabout. It is thought there have been well over 50 since its introduction in March 1993. (Only accidents where the police are called are officially recorded, so many never show up on official statistics).

The reluctance of motorists to slow down and give way when approaching a junction is probably the cause of most of the accidents, although many motorists possibly do not realise that the roundabout is there, until the very last moment. The roundabout sign ("E" approach) has been unlit at times, and during dry spells, rubber from tyres of vehicles who drive over the roundabout makes the roundabout very difficult to see and the road at this point is very slippery when wet.

Thursday
21/12/95
(night time)

A car travelling on the A59 from Clitheroe collided with a tractor travelling from the A682, the car skidded for some distance before the collision.

Wednesday
21/2/96
(evening)

A car turning right from the A59 (Skipton) into the A682 collided with a car travelling at speed from the A59 (Clitheroe). The roundabout sign (Clitheroe side) was unlit at the time although it was after lighting-up time. The road was wet. Police and Ambulance attended

Monday
29/7/96
(9.30 am)

A lorry heading towards Clitheroe collided with a car, the car ended up in the lamppost at the A59/Bentlea Road junction. The road was wet following rain after a dry spell. Two police officers attended.

Sunday
20/10/96
(6pm)

Three vehicles stopped although it was not clear whether they were all involved. One vehicle was parked reverse way round on the pavement towards the wall of the Grove. Although it was dark the mini-roundabout sign (Clitheroe side) was unlit at the time. An ambulance attended.

Sunday
3/11/96
(4.25pm)

A car collided with another, the road was dry at the time and it was dusk. The mini-roundabout sign (Clitheroe side) was unlit. There was a lot of traffic at the time but drivers remained parked on the top of the mini-roundabout whilst they exchanged details. The emergency services were not called and the whole incident lasted about ten minutes.

These are a few of many incidents which have occurred along with requests and measures introduced to slow down traffic and prevent accidents over the past 80 years....

- In 1915 the gateway across the road leading to the school was kept locked to "restrict the rush of school children onto Burnley road", children would then have to pass through the turnstile and "lessen the risk of accidents from motors and other fast moving vehicles".
- In 1915 the Bowland Rural District Council were requested to erect 3 boards warning of the danger existing where Stockbeck Road joins at a right-angle the Clitheroe and Skipton highway as several accidents had occurred.
- In 1919, the question of a speed limit for motor cars passing through the village of Gisburne was raised. Parishioners urgently requested the Parish Council to try, if possible, to get a speed limit fixed at **10 miles per hour** to the dangerous corners at Station Road Top, Post Office Corner and Stock Beck Road.

On Sunday 11th July 1920 at 10.50 am, P.C.Thompson saw a Bradford motor cyclist at Burnley Road end driving towards Skipton, he was crouched over the handle-bars and travelling at such a great speed when near the Ribblesdale Arms Hotel that the machine leaned over on its side "like a track racer". He signalled to him to stop and the rear wheel locked-up and skidded several times before he stopped. There was a lot of traffic at the time and the motor cyclist was going too quickly for his own and the public's safety.

Ernest O.Robinson, Postmaster at Gisburn, said the motor cyclist was "taking all he possibly could out of the engine and was going much too quickly for an ordinary road, never mind a village".

The motor cyclist denied going anything like 30mph or crouching over the handlebars, he said he had been driving for two years without receiving a caution. He was fined £5 and costs.

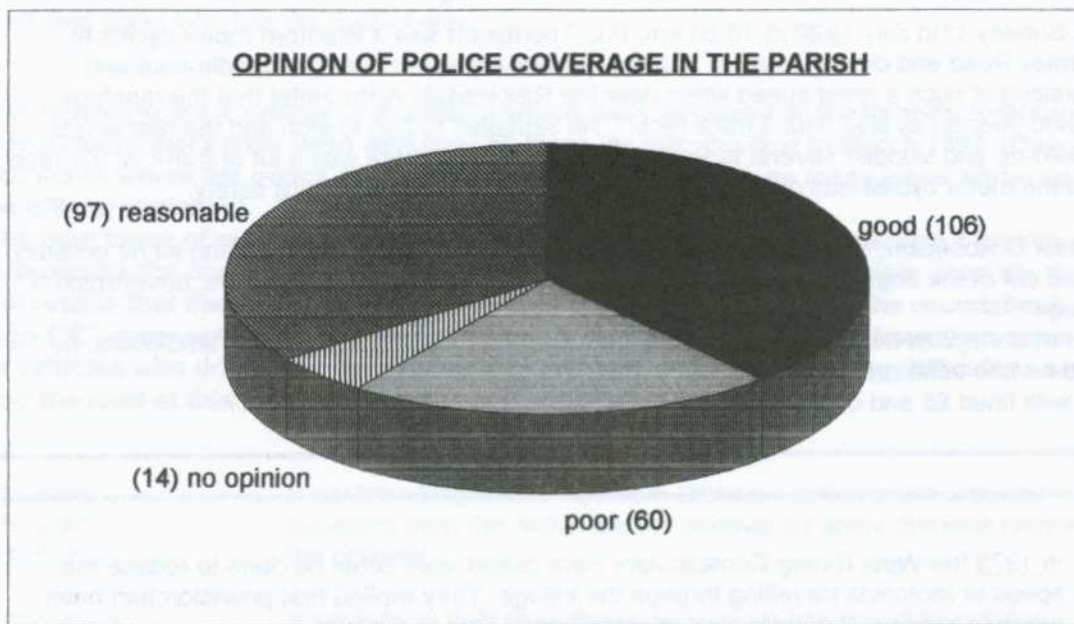
-
- In 1973 the West Riding Constabulary were asked what could be done to reduce the speed of motorists travelling through the village. They replied that provision had been made to 'step up' the enforcement of the speed limit in Gisburn.
 - On Sunday 30th Nov 1980, a car hit the gate post at the entry to the Playing Field destroying part of the wall and the Parish notice board.
 - In 1984 a barrier was erected to the exit from the playing field following a fatal accident at the A682/A59 junction.
 - In 1987 A speed survey revealed the average speed of 32 mph with 15% going faster than 38 mph.
 - In 1991 a traffic survey by the L.C.C./M.O.T. showed daily traffic rate through the village as 10,000 vehicles, 23% being heavy goods, which was twice the national average.
 - In 1992 the Ministry of Transport requested that the L.C.C. Surveyor consider traffic calming measures to slow down the speed of traffic through our village to make it safer.
 - Spring 1993, the traffic calming measures were introduced to the village.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER SERVICES.

VIEWS ON THE STANDARD OF THE FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES IN THE PARISH ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>REASONABLE</u>	<u>POOR</u>
Refuse collection	154	66	18
Mains electricity	125	101	16
Telephone service	123	82	28
Mains water supply	112	90	35
Street lighting	105	93	39
Winter weather service	25	102	107
Public toilets	14	56	114
Roadside/street cleaning	11	91	136
Provision of litter bins	10	66	143

POLICE



CRIME. Neighbourhood Watch operates in Gisburn. Probably the main concern in the Parish is auto crime with a number of residents having had their vehicles stolen, or damaged in attempted theft. A number of businesses have also suffered theft of machinery and equipment. A "Business Watch" scheme would be worth consideration to help deter the criminals that come from far afield to these parts thinking it an area of 'easy pickings'.

In 1913 P.C.Farnell was commended for the skill and bravery exhibited whilst arresting Issac Haworth who was in the act of committing a burglary in the village.

WOULD YOU WANT TO BE CONNECTED TO THE GAS MAIN IF AVAILABLE?

- YES 159 (61%)
- NO 100 (39%)

PUBLIC TOILETS

The public toilets on Mill Lane were built in the 1960's. They are now out-dated and badly in need of refurbishment. Used by visitors to Gisburn and a great number of people passing through, they are constantly in use, day and night. This is not surprising as they are the only public toilets on the A59 between Preston and Harrogate. Used also by many walkers and hikers, the Ribble Way footpath passes them. A recent proposal to close the toilets appeared to have been made without any proper consideration. A study would have proved the case for retaining and actually improving them.

Anyone who has travelled away from home, particularly those with children and the older generation, will know only too well the importance of clean and decent public toilet facilities being available.

We would like to offer visitors to Gisburn the courtesy of these facilities being available rather than being infamous for "awful toilets".

MAINS ELECTRICITY A primary sub - station was installed at Bolton by Bowland by 'Norweb' in 1993. Previously, Gisburn had suffered low voltage and from faults on the line. Underground cables were treble the cost of overhead ones, so were not considered.

In 1958 N.W.E.B. were contacted when several households in the village complained of the electric current fading at the weekend making it nearly impossible to read, and T.V.reception was poor. The cause of the problem was discovered to be the new electric boiler installed in the Church for heating purposes!

MAINS WATER SUPPLY

At the beginning of the century Lord Ribblesdale endeavoured to improve the health of the community by seeing that the scheme for sewerage the village was efficiently carried out, and provided, at his own cost, a good supply of water.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Prior to public refuse collection, Gisburn had an "Ashpit" where residents could take their ashes. This was situated by the archway on Church View, and was emptied every 6 or 8 weeks. Other rubbish had to be disposed of elsewhere by residents and was usually either burned, or buried in the garden.

STREET LIGHTING.

- In 1914, 9 acetylene street lamps were obtained by Gisburn Parish Council to replace Gas-Oil lamps. The new lamps were more efficient and the services of a lamp lighter were no longer required.
- Electric street lighting was installed in Gisburn in 1934. The Parish Council borrowed £100 from The Rev; J.Heslop, (who later became Canon Heslop) Vicar of Gisburn.Consent for the loan had to be obtained from both the Ministry of Health and the West Riding County Council. The loan was repaid between January 1935 and January 1944 at the rate of £10 per year.
- In 1963, the divisional road engineers were consulted when the police drew attention to the inadequate lighting system for the amount of traffic passing through the village.
- In July 1966 The Ministry of Transport took over the lighting systems on all trunk roads, lighting on other roads is the responsibility of the local authority highways department.

ROADSIDE / STREET CLEANING

57% of residents answering the questionnaire thought Roadside / Street Cleaning was poor.

Gisburn had its own 'lengthsman' until 7th January 1987, when Mr Ellis Birkbeck retired. A number of people said that standards had fallen since that time and suggested that 'lengthmen' should be re-introduced.

The following are a sample of many comments made regarding Roadside / Street Cleaning:-

- Roads always dirty.
- We need more road cleaners to keep the village clean.
- Little evidence of maintenance.
- Gisburn has lost its best cleaner of the streets. Since Mr Ellis Birkbeck retired its very dirty now. A "lost appearance" is what visitors will see.
- Footpaths could be swept and cleared of weeds and litter
- Bring back lengthsman.
- There seems to be a lot of "make do and mend" 'due to shortage of funds'. Bye roads, ditches, dykes and hedges not maintained, all due to the loss of lengthsman (linesmen) who had local knowledge handed down to them by their predecessors.
- Roads / pavements near mini roundabout need more sweeping as lorries shed many chippings here and there is always a lot of debris left in this area from frequent road accidents.
- If all householders would keep the area outside their own house litter - free, this would greatly improve the appearance of the village. Where is the lengthsman we used to have?
- Where is our local council workman like we used to have (Mr Birkbeck).
- Litter bins used to be emptied. Regular cleaning of road drains seems to have been abandoned by the authorities.
- Bigger litter bin needed on the playing fields which should be emptied regularly, the existing one is not being emptied.
- **The Council will be faced with enormous expense in order to re-instate the Parish Drainage System when it packs up, as it inevitably will, if the present unsatisfactory arrangements are allowed to continue. We need someone with detailed local knowledge of the Parish Drainage System to maintain it, to sweep pavements (which are never swept) and take care of our roads in general. This would prove more efficient and cost - effective in the long term.**

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Of those answering the questionnaire, the following results emerged :-

Location of Doctors Surgery

Clitheroe	216	(77%)
Barnoldswick	41	(15%)
Earby	13	(5%)
Settle	7	(3%)

Doctor A. Crowther of Pendleside Medical Practice, Clitheroe, holds a weekly surgery in the Festival Hall Gisburn, on Thursday mornings at 10.30.

Dr Flatley from the Railway View Medical Practice, Clitheroe, held a fortnightly surgery in the White Bull Hotel. This closed in October 1995.

-
- 24 residents (9%) have problems collecting medicine on prescription from the Health Centre.
 - 14 people (6%) are receiving long term medical or care services.
 - 7 people (3%) are registered disabled.

-
- **62% would prefer to use Airedale General Hospital**, followed by 19% opting for Blackburn and the remaining 19% choosing Burnley.

GISBURNE PARK HOSPITAL The 45 bed independent hospital offers a wide range of surgical and medical care, it contains an alcohol and drug dependency unit and provides both short and long term rehabilitation. There are two operating theatres, X-ray, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational and speech therapy facilities.

MEALS ON FOOT The service in Gisburn is organised by local residents on a voluntary basis. Provided by the W.R.V.S., a locally prepared hot meal is delivered by local volunteers 3 days a week. **This excellent service is a great asset to the village and is extremely important to those who use it.** Apart from the meal itself, recipients have the benefit of social contact with volunteers who deliver the meals.

Other Health and Social Services available to the village are:-

District Nurse, Health Visitor, Home Care Assistant, Chiropody and Ambulance.

LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Parish of Gisburn is set amidst beautiful countryside. The custodians of much of our parish are local farmers who make their living from the land. We only need to look at a neglected garden or field to imagine what our surroundings would be like if farmers did not work the land. This is generally overlooked. Occasional "country smells" and other inconveniences are a necessary part of country life which should be tolerated in return for the enormous visual benefits.

In order to improve the local countryside regarding roads, lanes and paths, answers given to the questionnaire were as follows:-

	Very Important or worth doing	Not Necessary
Remove Litter	210	13
Repair Gates and Stiles	199	10
Careful trimming of Roadside Hedges	187	22
Careful trimming of Roadside Verges	182	28
Better maintenance of Roadside Drains	182	11
Better maintenance of Roadside Ditches	178	14
Signpost Paths & Bridleways	170	36
Let Roadside Verges grow for Wildlife	80	86

The areas of the village which people thought could be improved visually are, (in descending order of most frequently suggested) :-

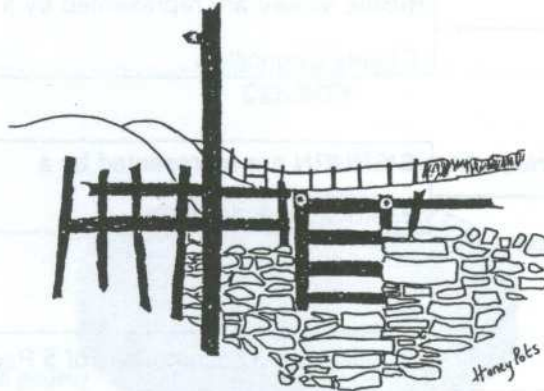
- The Barns adjacent to Vicarage
- Public Toilets
- Village Hall Grounds and Car Park
- Cenotaph
- Approaches to the Village
- The removal of all unauthorised Signs / Billboards
- A59 Verge adjacent to the Playing Fields
- The need to resurface Lyndale Terrace
- Frontal Areas of Hotels kept free of weeds and tidy
- Farthings

The following are numbers of people who said they would be prepared to help clear up and maintain :-

		<u>Contact:-</u>
• Village Hall Grounds	45	Festival Hall Management Committee.
• Churchyard	76	Parochial Church Council.
• Cenotaph	59	Parish Council.

Any offers of help would be appreciated on a regular, occasional or "on-off" basis. Please look out for details of tidying up sessions and come along with your gloves, forks, spades etc. Alternatively, contact the above if you could help at a more convenient time.

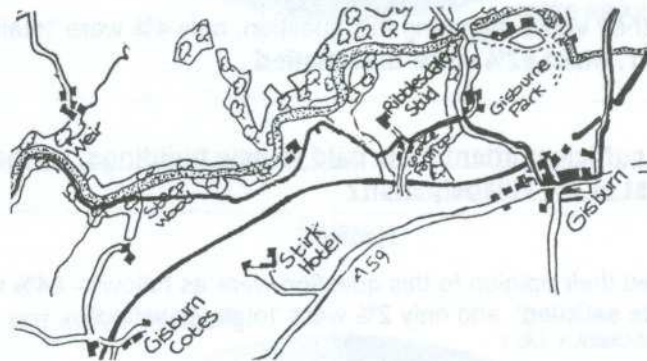
**82% of those answering the questionnaire said they use public footpaths and
bridleways.**



The Ribble Way This footpath was opened on 1st June 1985. It follows the valley of the River Ribble from the estuary at Longton near Preston in Lancashire to its source at Gavel Gap above Ribble Head in North Yorkshire. A distance of approximately 113 km (70 miles). The route is marked with a Ribble Way logo.



The Ribble Way footpath enters Gisburn parish from Sawley, passing to the left of Coppice Cottages, then along Mill Lane into the village. The route follows the north side of the A59 through the village centre and left at the Church corner onto Settle road (A682) where it continues over Stock Beck bridge into the neighbouring parish of Horton in Craven.



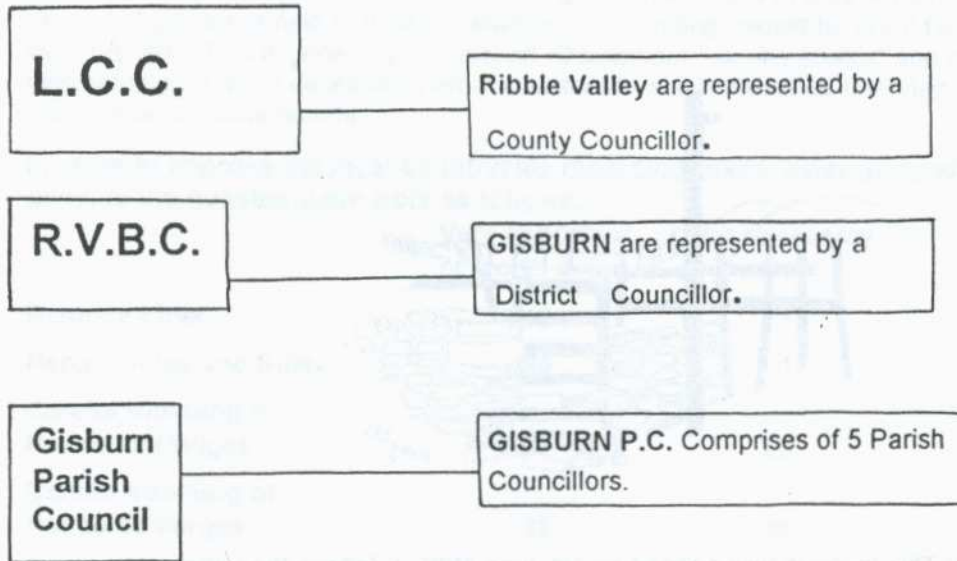
Further information is available in a guide book entitled "The Ribble Way".

Ordnance Survey maps (1:25000) showing Gisburn Parish are:-

Pathfinder 669 Clitheroe and Chipping sheet SD64/74
Pathfinder 670 Barnoldswick and Earby sheet SD84/94

When using footpaths, please follow the Country Code, respect landowners property, and farming activities being carried out.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



(Elections for the above offices are held every four years)

There was a high response to questions relating to local government. Of those giving an opinion, following results emerged:-

Are you satisfied with the way in which the planning system is implemented in the parish?

Of those people giving their views regarding this question, only 4% were 'totally satisfied', 34% were 'quite satisfied', whilst 62% were 'dissatisfied'.

Are you satisfied that sufficient attention is paid to new buildings, so that they harmonise with the rest of the village/parish?

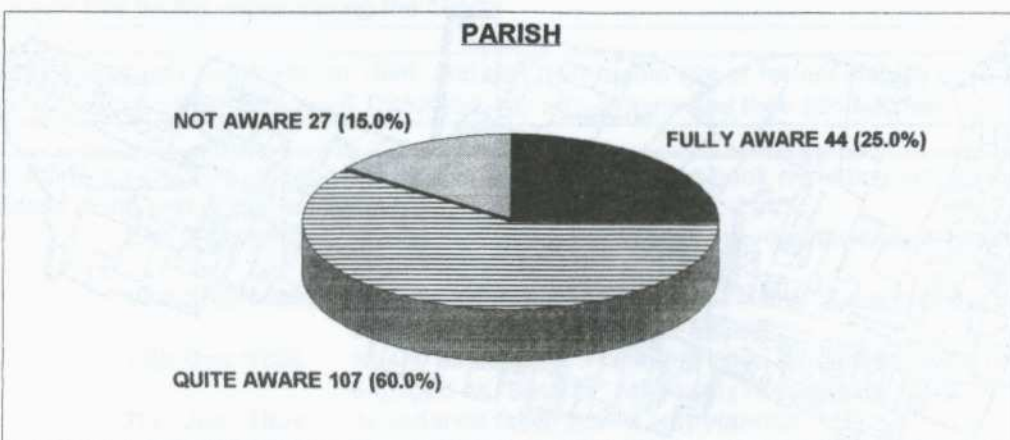
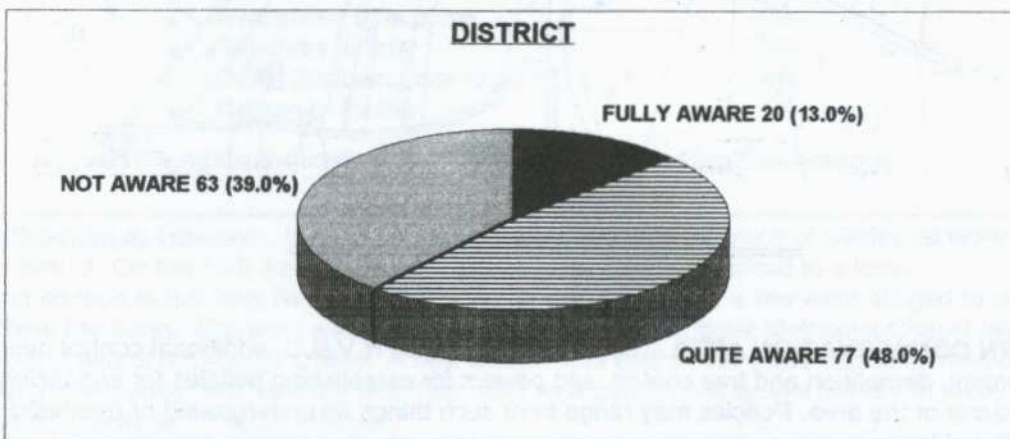
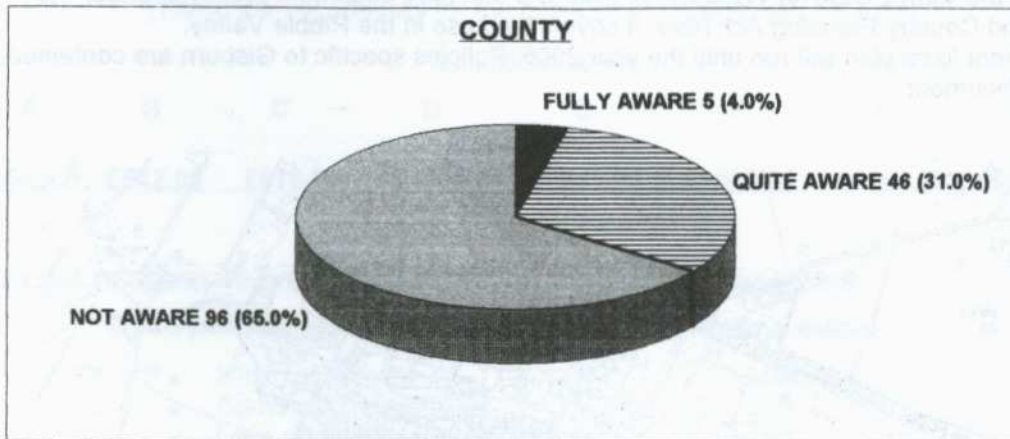
Those people who voiced their opinion to this question, were as follows:- 64% were 'dissatisfied', 34% 'quite satisfied', and only 2% were 'totally satisfied'.

How well does the Parish Council publicise its decisions and activities?

The following were the results of those giving their opinion :-

- Good 5%
- Reasonable 39%
- Poor 56%

Do you feel your elected representatives in local government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings?



MISCELLANEOUS

This section is devoted to items which would not reasonably fit anywhere else in the report, but which could not be excluded.

Local Council Tax charges for 1996/1997 for Gisburn Parish.

(These are set annually for the financial year beginning 1st April)

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£464.62	£542.05	£619.50	£696.93	£851.81	£1006.68	£1161.55	£1393.86

How did you come to live in this Parish? (more than one answer could be given).

(as a percentage of the 271 people who answered the question):-

- Work in the area 30%
- Came with family 26%
- Love of country life 18%
- Born in Parish 18%
- Love of village life 18%
- Marriage 15%
- Availability of housing 12%
- Relatives nearby 9%
- Other (Including one reply "By Car") 4%
- Retired to Parish 1%

Once again indicating that Gisburn is a "working" community.

Methodism in Gisburn. In 1759 Gisburn established the first place of Methodist worship in the district. On the 18th April 1784 John Wesley, (aged 81) preached to a large congregation. In his diary he noted: "The church was so full that a few were obliged to stand without the doors. The word was quick and powerful". The original Methodist Chapel later became part of the village smithy. A new Chapel was built in 1871 and closed in 1948 due to falling attendance. The building was then used as a garage and is now the site of three houses known as "The Old Chapel".

Gisburn Mill was a working corn mill until 1903. The mill was built using materials brought from the ruins of Sawley Abbey. It had an eighteen h.p. water wheel, the mill was last used as a saw mill for the estate during the 1950's.

Stable Close was completed in 1985, and was built on the site of former stables used by racehorse trainers Mr Anthony E. Dickinson, his wife Monica and their son Michael.

The following are a list of typical entries in Gisburn school log book regarding employment of children at the end of the last century:-

27th June 1898	Attendance this morning is 74, several boys were employed in the Cattle Market.
19th Sept 1898	Attendance today has been bad owing to many of the boys being engaged in the Cattle Market.
14th Dec: 1898	Nearly all the boys in the first class are absent owing to being engaged as "Beaters" for a party of shooters.
7th July 1899	Attendance fallen due to Hay Harvest.
11th Sept 1899	Many boys away from school, employed by a party of shooters.

OTHER COMMENTS

The following are a selection of other comments which are typical of those made most frequently, or which are thought-provoking:-

"There should be a wider variety of sports activities on the playing field. The only sports facility Gisburn playing field has, is a tiny football pitch with goalposts kindly bought by a villager without any financial help from the Council".

"Everything in the village is geared at older people".

"Businesses need to advertise their services but this could be toned down to fit in with the rural character of Gisburn".

"Gisburn is a friendly village which has a lot to offer in leisure and meeting people".

"The new housing will bring new families into the village. This will mean more traffic but hopefully more prosperity so another shop may be needed, one which carries a larger range of goods".

"Remove all Roadside Signs, Billboards, Flags and Banners etc;. They are not required".

"Footpaths to the east and north involve traversing the dangerous A59 or A682. Any extensions / re-routing into the village would be very helpful. Unless this can be done, care and trimming of roadside verges is essential to allow walkers to get off the road".

There are lots of people living in the village who don't join in with anything".

"It would be interesting to know how much of the quarry spoil that thunders (literally) through the village, is used to repair the damage caused to the roads by the very vehicles that transport it. If much of the spoil could be routed back to rail transport,(as it used to be) then far less would be needed and we might be spared the constant demands to ruin more of the countryside by extending existing quarries or re-opening new ones"

"All junctions in Gisburn are dangerous for increasing size of lorries which cannot negotiate corners without stopping traffic or mounting the pavements".

"Its a great pity that no organisation is responsible for looking after the borders and beds of the Cenotaph".

"Although we have only lived here a year, I feel very happy and at home and enjoy living in Gisburn".

"Unsalted roads in winter cause a hazard for the school bus service".

"New trees should be planted wherever possible,(especially deciduous, oak etc;)"

"Involvement of younger people in village decisions".

"It is impossible to sleep with a window open, the noise from the traffic is horrendous. Especially noticeable at 4am when empty quarry wagons thunder over the brow at speeds in excess of 30mph".

"Good services - 'Meals on Foot' available. Fresh fish weekly (Thursday). A well established playgroup in the village hall. A very good Primary School".

"Better signage of public toilets and telephone required".

"More people to take an interest in, and attend Parish Council meetings".

"A bit more community spirit needed to keep the village clean and tidy".

"The Travellers Court contains too many properties, built in materials which are alien to the locality. The 'out of character' development has spoilt our village. There was not a need for so many houses of this type, which has now been proved as the housing association struggles to find suitable occupants. (Particularly the "local" people for whom the houses were intended)".

"Are there enough activities in the village for children of senior school age?".

"The Parish Council might approach the brewery responsible for the White Bull Hotel to ascertain the contribution they may wish to invest to enhance the quality of life (village) for the more mature resident and their visitors.

"I am worried for the sake of the children and young people because of the danger of the threat of closure of the playing fields. The playing fields should be left as it is and improved upon to allow young children to play ball games etc; away from the busy road. It would be a terrible thing for the village, and village life for such an asset to be taken away" (We think it worth noting that this comment was made by an elderly lady who said she had lived in the Parish for over 50 years).

"Playing field should remain a playing field in perpetuity".

"No car parking for the O.A.P. bungalows as every household has a car or visitors every day. No disabled access".

"Playing fields for children in the village centre very important. No houses need to be built there".

"Planning applications should only be allowed if they are in keeping with the rest of the village and developments should be closely monitored to make sure all requirements are adhered to".

"We could do with reception from 'Granada' television instead of Yorkshire".

"More activities in the village hall. More children's play schemes".

"Land should not be built on just because it is available. No more houses are needed in the village. Our infrastructure cannot support another development".

"We are very lucky to have such an excellent village hall. Although not suitable for large functions, it serves other purposes very well. Visitors who have seen many other village halls think ours marvellous. We should be very proud of it and treat it with respect".

CONCLUSION (September 1997)

The research for, and writing of this document has taken a year. Compiled by volunteers with no previous experience of this type of work. Much time and effort has been put into what we hope is an excellent consultation document for use by the community.

The reward for our perseverance and commitment will be by the findings of the appraisal being turned into positive action rather than just being filed away in a drawer.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE PROJECTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEGUN, OR ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION, EITHER AS A RESULT OF, OR WITH THE HELP OF "GISBURN 2001" VILLAGE APPRAISAL FINDINGS:-

- L.C.C. / R.V.B.C. held a successful Business Advice Evening at the Stirk House Hotel in March 1997. It was decided to hold this event in our parish as a direct result of Gisburn 2001 Business Survey.

- Gisburn Youth Club have made a video of their views of life in Gisburn.
have designed two very colourful postcards which are being submitted for entry in a book of selected work to be published by the local branch of the National Youth Agency.
National Youth Week is November 2nd - 9th 1997 and the theme is "Giving young people a voice".(through effective communications and own self expression).
are planning a future arts project.

- Village Ventures Competition Gisburn 2001 village appraisal has won the "Action Project" category of the 1996/97 prestigious Lancashire 'Village Ventures' competition. We are now one of 3 finalists in the 4th stage, which will decide the overall winner of the competition.

- Festival Hall Roof. Applications for several grants made by the Festival Hall Management Committee members have been backed up by the appraisal results, and priorities for action decided at the public meeting in April 1997. This has proved to be successful. The Rural Development Commission say they are particularly impressed by community efforts, and have offered a generous grant towards the re-roofing project. They have also given useful constructive advice on how to obtain additional funding. R.V.B.C. had already offered grant funding towards the project. Lancashire County Council have not supported our village hall roof project in any way.

- Lengthsman The possibility of the re-introduction of a lengthsman in the Parish is being investigated.

- Parish Notice Board. Many people suggested they would like a parish notice board near the Post Office. (If the Post Office had been given as an option in the questionnaire, we think the number would have been even greater).
The Parish Council are to resite the cenotaph notice board (which may presently detract attention from the cenotaph) to outside the Post Office, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs P.Robinson of Gisburn P.O.

- Cenotaph Parish Council members appealed for help with the improvements to and maintenance of the cenotaph following responses to questions in the appraisal. Although only a few of those who said they would help have come forward, the ones who have done so have greatly improved the cenotaph.
As maintenance is ongoing, anyone who said they would, but have not yet offered to help, either on a regular or "one off" basis may contact the Parish Council at any time.

- Communications The "Dates for your diary" page, and Parish Council reports are being included in the Parish Magazine again.

- Gisburn Parish Map A future project is under consideration.

- Pond / Wildlife Area A future project is being considered by Gisburn County Primary school. Appraisal results would be used to help secure any funding required.

- Archives A copy of the Final Report of Gisburn 2001 Village Appraisal will be lodged at the County Records Office at Preston for future reference.

- Rural Development Gisburn is part of the Lancashire Rural Development Area. Members of Gisburn 2001 group have already been involved with the development of local regeneration initiatives, and will use findings of the appraisal to continue to help develop local initiatives in partnership with local authority, private sector, voluntary organisations and funding agencies to achieve economic and social benefits throughout the area.

Gisburn 2001 Appraisal findings are also being used by our district councillor Mr D.M.Waller, and our Parish Council, for the following projects:-

- Car Park.
- Public Toilet Improvements.
- Improvements to traffic calming measures.
- Footpath Improvements.

And for consultation prior to any future decision making.

GISBURN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE. (CORNER SHOP)

Although on the same premises, these are two entirely separate businesses. Each business, along with other businesses in the village, need our support if we wish to retain them. Gisburn Post Office also serves nearby villages and hamlets who do not have their own post offices, including Rimington (who recently lost theirs) Middop, Paythorne, Newsholme and Horton. Many visitors to the village request information and directions from the 'corner shop', which is also an acknowledged community meeting place. (see also Retail Services: page 13 & 14).

Whilst the general store relies on turnover, the Post Office relies on the number of transactions made. If the number of transactions fall below a certain level, the Post Office would be downgraded.



When the 'Corner Shop' was taken over by Mr & Mrs P. Robinson in March 1997, the number of transactions through the Post Office were dangerously near the next lower level.

The number of transactions could easily be raised. The following are a few of the services available *free of charge*:-

- Purchase of T.V. Licence.)
- Payment of Electricity Bill.) Also saves cost of postage!
- Payment of Telephone Bill.)
- Child Benefit, Pensions and other allowances can be made via: the Post Office. (Instead of direct to banks who have now all closed their branches in Gisburn).

The Post Office has moved several times over the century. Originally in its present location, it moved to No 3 Park View, then temporarily to the National Westminster Bank premises (now 'The Old Bank Shop') on the main street before moving to Snowhill Studio and then back to 9 Park View (now referred to as 'The Corner Shop').

In 1974 Gisburn was in danger of losing its branch Post Office because neither premises nor postmaster could be found to replace retired army major Mr Ralph Kitney of 3, Park View, who retired on February 13th after taking over from his father-in-law Mr Bertram Bentley 10 years earlier.

At that time around 100 people each week were drawing their pensions and allowances from Gisburn Post Office and approximately 270 telegrams per year were received, (despatch figures not available). The position of postmaster carried a salary of more than £1000 p.a. Mr Kitney said at the time, "One person just can't run the Post Office because Gisburn is the telegram centre of the area. A steady stream of customers have to be served at the counter whilst the telegram business has to go on in another room to maintain privacy".

With the closure of the business, the sweets side of the business also closed because Mr Kitney said "Basically there are too many shops in the village, it would not pay to stay open just as a sweet shop".

The National Westminster Bank offered to help by leasing its premises on a temporary basis on Friday mornings from February 18th between 9.15am and 12.15pm. This was run by a permanent officer of the Post Office until the business was taken over by Mrs Mann at Snowhill Studio.

The following is a summary of the main findings from Gisburn Village Appraisal. (March 1997)

Although no longer self sufficient, Gisburn is still a working community, this is confirmed by the fact that almost half the workforce works within the parish.

There is a strong community spirit displayed by the high response rate to the survey which reveals a genuine interest in the local environment, local government, village history and leisure activities within the parish.

The Business Survey has highlighted a need for:-

- Car parking for visitors
- A review of Business rates
- Improved Post Office/Postal facilities
- Banking facilities

It has also highlighted:-

- The importance of agriculture and tourism to the local economy
- The lack of public transport to bring workers into the village

The A59 through the village was thought to be a *disadvantage* to some businesses, and an *advantage* to others !!

HOUSING AND PLANNING.

The **majority** of respondents are **not** satisfied with the way the planning system is implemented in the Parish.

Properties are mainly pre 1900 with many being very much older, and the major part of respondents are not satisfied that sufficient attention is paid to new buildings so that they harmonise with the rest of the village/parish.

The example most quoted by those who answered the questionnaire, is the recently built "Travellers Court", this development being within Gisburn Conservation Area, the houses are thought to be badly positioned, possibly in order to maximise the number built in the space available.

The properties are built with sandstone faced blocks and are fenced with red coloured timber, the colour and style in both cases are totally out of character with the surrounding area, and many residents feel they have been badly let down by the Ribble Valley Planning Authorities, in whom their trust is placed to ensure that new development is sympathetic to the surrounding area.

The majority of parishioners are of the opinion that the village does not need developing greatly in the foreseeable future, and there is concern regarding the capacity of the existing sewage system.

The survey results suggest that the housing stock in the village more than adequately satisfies the need for local housing provision

The MONDAY CLUB survey has proved the importance of:-

- Services in the village.
- Local Groups and Organisations.

It has confirmed a need for:-

- A prescription service to the village.
- Car Parking Facilities.
- A review of the amount and speed of traffic through the village.
- A review of public transport facilities including the possibility of restoring a rail service to the village.
- A review of cleaning and maintenance of roads, streets, drains etc; in the Parish.
- Improved Public Toilets.

It has also confirmed great concern for the long term future of the Playing Fields.

The Youth Club survey has revealed the importance to the younger age group of:-

- The Playing Fields.
- The lack of facilities for older children on the Playing Field.
- Litter Bins !!

It has confirmed a need for:-

- A village football team.
- Small scale sports facilities.
- Separate Youth Club sessions to cater for different age groups.
- A review of public transport facilities including the possibility of restoring a rail service to the village.

As a direct result of the survey, the Youth Club have been involved in a visual arts project to design and create a postcard relating to their experiences of village life.

Therefore, a suggestion of items for young people in the Parish Magazine may be better met by the establishment of a young peoples newsletter - produced by young people themselves.

A suggestion was made of a computer service, possibly linked to the 'Internet' and available for use by all residents for a small charge.

The Household Survey has revealed the following:-

- The majority say the Church is important to them, although Sunday worship was only considered to be the fourth reason why.
- There is great interest in the possibility of restoring a rail service to the village.
- The 'bus service is regarded as essential or important to at least 1/3rd of parishioners.
- Clubs people would most like to see formed (in descending order) are:-

Local History
Painting and Drawing
Bowling

(See also Youth Club survey)

- Regarding local concerns and feelings, the majority of residents do not think the Parish Council are fully aware. There was comment that if the Parish Council are aware of local concerns and feelings, they do not always act on them.
- Residents would like more information about what their elected representatives are doing for them on their behalf.
- Second to 'word of mouth', Gisburn Parish Magazine is the most popular means of communication in the Parish.
- A large number of residents made the suggestion that they would like to see the Parish Notice Board situated outside the Post Office.
- The majority of parishioners have difficulty with T.V. reception, some expressed a wish to receive "Granada" in preference to "Y.T.V."
- A number of people suggested the removal of unauthorised and unattractive signs which they say "clutter the village and make it look untidy".
- A number of people said they would like Banking, or at least Cash Dispenser facilities in the village.
- A suggestion of a 'Telecottage' or similar in the village was made. (see also youth club survey).
- The majority of residents would prefer to use Airedale Hospital.
- The Library Van is seriously underused and needs more support.
- Village Hall facilities could be used more.
- The majority think the roads and pavements need cleaning more frequently.
- There is great concern regarding dog fouling in places where children play and where people have to walk.
- Provision of Public Toilets and Litter Bins was thought to be poor by the majority.

- The four main areas of the village which people thought could be improved visually (in descending order) are:-

- Barns adjacent to the Vicarage
- Public Toilets
- Village Hall grounds and car park
- Cenotaph

- To improve the countryside, parishioners thought the following were important (in descending order):-

- Removal of litter
- Maintenance of footpaths
- **Careful** trimming of roadside hedges and verges
- Maintenance of road side drains and ditches

- The subject which attracted most individual comment was that of traffic through the village, there being major concern about:-

SPEED
VOLUME
NOISE
WEIGHT

- Parishioners not satisfied with the present traffic calming measures have made numerous suggestions as to how they could be improved.

- Two thirds of those expressing an opinion think the village needs a By Pass.

- The other subjects which caused most individual comment were:-

- Lack of car parking for visitors and villagers
- Travellers Court development
- Future of the Playing Fields
- Public Toilet provision
- Dirty Roads and Pavements
- Dog Fouling
- Litter

