



Happy Christmas!!!

As you may have noticed by now, this year we have new lights on the village green for Christmas! The previous set were rather 'tired' to say the least, and we are indebted to a local resident who kindly donated & installed a new set – spectacular! Thanks to all who helped with setting them up. We think they look fantastic. Your own comments would be very welcome – write in, call us or come along to the next meeting!

Speed Limits

Sadly, we have to report another death on the A34, just by Astbury Meadow Garden Centre. It would seem speeding played a major part in this tragedy, and the PC remains convinced a general lowering of speed limits, or at least extending the 40mph section to this junction with Watery Lane would help. Please make your own views, known to us – ideally in a letter, and we'll pass your comments on to the relevant government department, along with our own. The Community Speedwatch team will be coming along to our February meeting. Why not come along and hear how they can help us?



Masterminds!!

Well, after two rounds of the Cheshire Village Quiz, we haven't let you down! A team of 4 'volunteers' travelled to Croft in Warrington (is that in Cheshire?) and deserved bonus points for not turning back following huge delays on the M6, and came 5th from 10 teams (but we ate more food than the rest!) Round two was held here at Astbury, and we came a fantastic 2nd !! Thanks to the ladies who provided splendid refreshments (a feast!), and do let us know if you'd like to join the team. It's fun, and, as you may have gathered, there's usually some nice food involved!

To 'bus'...or not to 'bus'?

Sorry – that's a bad joke! Some time ago, the bus shelter by the top of Bent Lane was destroyed (again). We'd like to hear your views...would you like another? It would need to be 'in keeping' with the traditional feel of the village, but we need to carefully consider the needs of those who rely on public transport...what do you think? Let us know!



Congratulations!!!

Hearty congratulations to everyone involved with SLAG – the Sandy Lane Action Group. Once again, proof that a concerted effort by local residents can overturn huge corporate plans to fundamentally change the parish. This was a enormous battle, and their achievement cannot be underestimated. Similarly, plans to build football pitches and facilities on Watery Lane were also defeated at a recent CBC Planning Committee meeting. We genuinely hope the club involved find a new home perhaps better suited to their needs.



Planning – big changes ahead...

In November, 7 members of the PC attended a seminar on the proposed changes to the way planning applications are processed. There is a huge backlog of such requests (about 80,000 in fact), and the changes will mean householders may find it easier to substantially extend their homes (the backlog is from domestic applications), while business submissions will become much more complex...good news for some, bad for others. The Parish Council's views will carry more weight, but once again, we need to know your views to take them into consideration.

An appeal....

Your Parish Council meet every second Wednesday of the month. Please don't think our gatherings are like a scene from 'The Vicar of Dibley' (although there are certain similarities...) – and it's not all boring!! We rarely have 'visits' by members of the public, unless there is something going on which impacts directly on them (usually planning matters). Why not come along, if only for part of our meetings? It's your community...

News in brief...

•Our website is developing, step by step, when our 'web developer' (Nick!) has the time...keep checking at www.astbury-parish.org.uk By the way, if you'd like to receive this newsletter by e-mail (saving on post & printing costs!), please do let us know.

- Moss Road will be closed from February 12th due to essential sewer installations to help prevent flooding.
- We are investigating the possibility of 'tidying up' some common land at Brownlow Heath, with some special funding. We hope to improve the overall appearance, perhaps by planting new trees and maybe a bench as the area is popular with walkers.

Welcome!

A little premature, yes, but we'd like to extend an 'advance welcome' to our new Rector, Rev. Jonathon Sharples, who is currently curate at Ashton upon Mersey St Mary Magdalene in Bowden. Married to Ella, they have 4 children – Becca, Ben, Tom and Annie. We look forward to meeting them all!



How old is this tree?



When putting up the new Christmas lights, it was noted that the Sycamore tree in the village green was getting rather old, and we are arranging a visit from 'the doctor'. One of our team has a photograph taken in 1902, where it seems to be about 20 years old. Do you have any more information? We are investigating planting another tree to 'prepare' for its replacement, so future generations have the pleasure of this landmark as we have.

May day update

Further to our recent appeal, a meeting was held last week to discuss the future of this wonderful tradition. Although disappointed by the turnout, the end result was tremendous – a new committee was formed, allowing the current, long-standing team to take a rest. It was agreed representatives from the school, church and the Parish Council would join an 'expanded' team, and everyone involved was excited by the outcome! As always, thanks to **everyone** who helps in some way. 'A tradition worth protecting' was the theme of the meeting, and protect it we shall!

Who Are We?

Roger Sutton 01260 273677

Charles Kennerly 01260 272205

Mel Lawton 01260 278384

Peter Cliff 01260 278641

Andy Banks 01260 281194

Terry Depledge 01260 271058

Nick Sharman 01260 271374

Rob Lomas 01260 272061

Lindis Pattison-Tadman 01260 270045

Michelle Padmos 01260 272463

Jane Shelmerdine 01260 279870

Dave Roberts 01260 275010

Chairman : John Carter 01260 275828

Clerk : Charlie Pointon : 01260 274891

We meet in the Astbury Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. Please feel free to come along!

Item for the next newsletter, or any comments? Contact Andy Banks. Read reports of our meetings in 'The Chronicle' and remember our website – www.astbury-parish.org.uk. Finally, contact us via e-mail at astcfp@tesco.net.