



And that means daffodils! We've resisted using the 'usual' photo of the village green, and rather liked this 'alternative' angle of the church, but using modern technology, superimposed an imaginary field of daffodils! By the way...many people commented on the 'Christmas photo featured in the last newsletter, and asked if we planned to make some charity Christmas cards using it. What do you think? Please let us know!



“Read all about it!”

Admittedly, the phrase “how many men does it take to change a lightbulb?” springs to mind, but PC members recently changed the noticeboard by the village hall, with a splendid new one made by our own Terry Depledge, to whom we are very grateful. Naturally, it was made from the finest aged English oak! We have already replaced an equally aged board at Ackers Crossing, and plan to put up two new boards at Brownlow and by the Horseshoe Pub. Please look out for news and announcements from your Parish Council! And do remember our website – www.astbury-parish.org.uk - it's getting bigger by the day, so do take a look!



Road safety – Update

We continue to pressurise for reduced speed limits and traffic calming in the Parish, and Cheshire County Council concede to “receiving a steady stream of such requests”, perhaps after a number of dreadful accidents in recent months. We are particularly focused on the stretch of the A34 from Little Moreton Hall to Astbury village, especially by the garden centre, a particular black spot (maybe a more 'solid' island rather than the painted hatchings?). Whilst CCC initially commented “...there is no evidence to support an extension to the 50mph limit...”, external consultants have reported “...other speed management measures are required”. When compiling the Parish Plan, over 80% of respondents felt there were 'major danger spots' within the Parish. We'll keep the pressure on, and you informed.

Astbury May Day – don't miss it!

Don't forget, Astbury May Day on Saturday 16th May! If you feel you can help in *any* way – no matter how small – please contact Michael Moor on 01260 290135 or Andy Banks on 01260 281194.

Motocross activities

Cheshire Northwest Schoolboy Scramble Club will be running competitions at Bay Tree Farm on June 14th, August 2nd and September 27th, and at Lime Kiln on Mow Cop on May 10th and June 28th. Activities run from 10am to 4.30pm. The Environmental Health Department asked for the dates to be well 'spread' in consideration to local residents, who may expect some noise and additional traffic.



Stepping back in time...

Astbury school's PFA recently held a '70's and 80's night' at the village hall to raise funds. It was a great night with a live band, and everyone dressing up. Here we see a couple of locals who may prefer not to be identified...

If you hold a similar event, why not send us a photograph and a few details?



Crime in Congleton Declining!

Latest figures show crime in Congleton has dropped by 9% - 454 fewer crimes. Crime in Cheshire overall dropped by 5%, so we are doing better than most other areas!



Domestic Burglary **Reduced by 30% 89 Less Crimes**
 Violent Crime **Reduced by 1% 7 Less Crimes**
 Vehicle Crime **Reduced by 36% 260 Less Crimes**
 Criminal Damage **Reduced by 16% 188 Less Crimes**

| Detections | This Year | Last Year |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Domestic Burglary | 29.8% | 26.1% |
| Violent Crime | 47.3% | 46.4% |
| Vehicle Crime | 13.3% | 12.7% |
| Criminal Damage | 14.3% | 12.9% |

Village quiz update

After 5 thrilling rounds, we are currently 6th from 16 teams involved in the 'Cheshire Village Quiz' league. It's nail-biting stuff, and if you want to join in, **please** do give our team captain, Nick on 01260 271374 who will be delighted to fire one of his current team to make room for you!

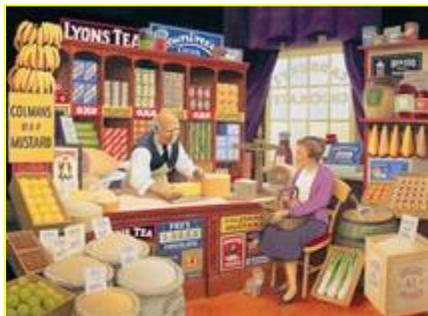
'On the Grapevine'



At every meeting, we discuss the 'On the Grapevine' newsletter published by Cheshire Police. It's worth a look, and can be accessed via our website (under 'Useful Links'). Recent items include...

- As the warm weather approaches, thieves are already looking for 'open doors'. During a recent spell of sunshine, 10 burglaries were reported over 5 days, where opportunists simply walked into houses and quickly stole bags, keys, purses etc.
- Police have been using sniffer dogs in spot checks on local pubs etc in the search for drugs
- Watch out for 'bogus callers' – people pretending to be 'officials'
- Remember to wear your seatbelt! After 6 recent accidents where cars ended up on their roofs, all occupants walked away with minor scratches – because their seatbelts held them in place. Don't forget! "Clunk click, every trip!" (Remember that?!)

Do you miss the old village shop?



Well, sadly, times have changed and there aren't many village shops & post offices left anywhere. But there are a surprisingly large number of businesses in the parish. It's fair to assume many may be finding the current economic climate

hard, so shouldn't we be sticking together? If you run a local business and would be interested in exploring ideas of working together and sharing ideas (or problems), get in touch. You may well be buying products or services from mile away, when you could be reducing costs or getting a better service locally. And maybe that business could be reciprocated? Exploring the concept won't hurt? We could meet up in a local pub! That's a step in the right direction, straight away! Contact Andy on the number below or at andybanks@macclesfieldaudi.co.uk

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.