



Another Royal Celebration for Astbury!!!



The whole parish united for a fantastic party to mark the Royal wedding last year...and plans are already underway to have an even **bigger** event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June! Activities will take place in the Rectory grounds and over at Glebe Farm climaxing with a musical 'Party in the Paddock', featuring local bands (to suit all tastes!). Planning is at the early stages, so we'll be in touch, but keep Monday June 4th free! (We've already invited her majesty, but she said she was a bit busy. Korky the corgi might come instead...)

ACE - new community group takes shape

It has long been an objective to somehow bring all aspects of our community together – there are so many fantastic organisations in the area, and so much going on...it's very easy to miss something, or make the most of what we have. Now ACE – Astbury Community Events - aims to draw together not just local groups, but maybe businesses, too, and maximise the skills and resources we have in the area.

After a few 'high-powered meetings' (in the pub!), it was decided the first event would be a quiz night, to be held in the Glebe Farm Coffee shop on Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £2 & refreshments will be available (feel free to bring your own wine!)



All proceeds go to charity. For further details, or to get involved, call Lindis Tadman on 01260 270045 or email lindis@btconnect.com or call in at Glebe Farm shop, where tickets are on sale.

The train NOT stopping at Congleton...HS2



The controversial £32 billion HS2 rail project seems set to be given the green light by the government. The first phase of this high-speed railway system will be built between London & Birmingham...but phase two will link north to Manchester & Leeds...and initial plans show the route passes right through Congleton (but not stopping here!). At an estimated cost of £1,000 to every household in the UK, the environmental impact on the parish could be enormous. Local MP Fiona Bruce is against the project, and it's clear that the community may well want to make it's own voice heard...we'll keep you informed...



The only other British Monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897, so we thought it would be nice to somehow permanently mark the occasion. One idea was to plant a number of trees in the graveyard, (by the lawn on the left as you drive in from the A34), or if you know of another area that may be suitable, please get in touch.

Saving a life...in Astbury

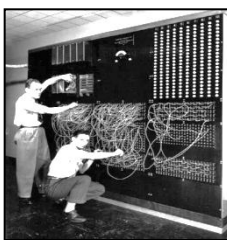
We hope this will be a total waste of money...but if it **does** get used...it could save your life. PC member Leslie Lomas is a nurse, and told us how someone suffering from a heart attack and stopping breathing has more than double the chance of survival if a defibrillator



can be used quickly (many supermarkets have one on site for just such a reason). Astbury is a popular spot with walkers and cyclists, so it was agreed to fund the purchase of a unit, which will be kept in a secure case by the village hall, a popular meeting point for such groups. Training will be given to a number of local volunteers, so please do keep an eye open for further information.

Faster broadband could be coming...

Like it or not, the internet plays a huge part in our lives every day, and access speed in the area is somewhat variable. But here's some good news – we may be able to access some funding to help make surfing (and working!) rather faster. We'll have to carry out a survey first...but we'll keep you informed!!



...and look out...

The bad weather hasn't gone away...so keep a look out for elderly neighbours...maybe help clear a slippery path or ask if they might need some shopping?

Thanks...and sorry...

Once again, the village green looked simply stunning during the Christmas period, with our 'symbolic' oak tree looking like a guardian centrepiece, floodlit and adorned with lights in its branches. Again, on behalf of the whole parish, could we thank our generous 'sponsor' who supplies everything and set's the whole thing up (and who likes to remain anonymous), along with Stuart & Julie Pirie, who allow us to use their electricity! A very sincere "thank you" from us all! Finally, we're sorry this newsletter is a bit late!!

Cambodian Evening – 10th March, 7.30pm in the village hall

The event will provide an opportunity to enjoy some Cambodian food and hear about the work of various projects currently happening to support change and development in a range of communities in Cambodia from two people who are working in the front line – Rev Bob and Pam Toan.



Tickets £5.00 each can be obtained at church on Sundays or from Jane Platt 079970293855 or Jayne Eardley 07974208660
Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Cambodia – A beautiful country with a tragic history.

Although Cambodia has endured bloody civil war in the '70's and 80's which have left it devastated and impoverished, since 1998 there has been a democratic government seeking to restore the fortunes of this once prosperous nation. War has left a legacy of destruction and a generation of doctors, teachers, dentists and other professions murdered by the Khmer Rouge. Cambodia's main income is now from economic aid from the international community and it is one of the world's poorest countries. Average life expectancy is 57, 42% of the population is under 15, and 1 person in 290 has lost a limb because of landmines.

Bob and Pam's main vision is to support Partners who are involved in a variety of ministries. Some of these ministries are very demanding. Pam also teaches English to Cambodians. They expect to be serving in Cambodia for about seven years.

They hope over future years to have teams and individuals visiting Cambodia for short term projects that would be mutually beneficial.

What's On In Astbury

Listen..watch..dance..learn..worship..share..in and around Astbury in February & March ...

PLEASE do get in touch so we can promote any community events in the future – Andy starts compiling this newsletter around the middle of the preceding month, so if you'd like some free publicity, call him!!

The **Ladies Fellowship** meet in the village hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. On **15th February**, Mrs Joan Proctor from Learn4life in Congleton will be giving an update on the Ugandan school project, where a dilapidated old building is being rebuilt into a thriving school for local children. On **21st March**, Mrs Fiona Ford will present "Fresh Hair". After her own fight with cancer, Fiona now helps ladies in a similar situation maintain their dignity with wigs and hair pieces. For any further details about the Ladies Fellowship, please contact Carol Goodwin on 01260 274190.

The **Women's Institute** meet in the village hall on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30p. On **March 7th**, it's 'Headaches, neck & arm ache' with chiropractor Andrea McIntyre. On **April 4th**, it's 'Pam Sambrook – Oatcakes!' and **May 2nd** Jon Baddeley presents 'Nostalgia music from 1920-1960'. For details of any of these events, contact Catherine Pedley on 01260 278139.

A Passage, Pie & Pint in the Pub! Enjoy good company, some food and a short, informal discussion of a Bible passage in the Egerton Arms at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in school on **Monday 26th March** at 7.30pm.

Afternoon tea at the Rectory – 1st Friday of every month at 3pm. Makes Betty's tea rooms look (& taste) like a transport caff! All welcome!!

Pancake evening – Tuesday 21st February at 7pm in the village hall. Again, all welcome!!

For details of any church events, contact Jon at the Rectory on 272625....oh, and check out the new church website at www.astburychurch.org.uk...it's very good!

Who Are We?

Roger Sutton 01260 273677

Charles Kennerly 01260 272205

Philip Critchlow 01260 272174

Peter Cliff 01260 278641

Andy Banks (Newsletter Editor) 01260 281194

Nick Sharman 01260 271374

Rob Lomas 01260 272061

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Lesley Lomas 01260 272061

Sally-Ann-Banks 01260 281964

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!

If you have an 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