



Dear Parishioner

The stringent controls and restrictions recently imposed by the Government to limit the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak are having a profound impact on our day to day lives. This is particularly so in rural Parishes where residents are more dispersed and as in the case of Astbury & Moreton significantly at the upper end of the age spectrum.

Several Parish Councillors have volunteered to offer assistance to Residents who are experiencing difficulty in obtaining items and information crucial to their health and wellbeing - eg. collecting and delivering prescriptions.

If you, or a neighbour you know of, need help please contact the Clerk, Julie Mason on 01260 641854, or email: jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com.

In the meantime, although meetings and surgeries have been suspended, the Parish Council remains functioning and Residents can maintain contact through the website (astbury-parish.org.uk) or by telephoning the Clerk. For further details please see page 2.

Stay safe and be mindful of others.

John Carter
Chairman



Above. The intrepid band of volunteers who decorated the tree for the Parish Council's support of the Astbury Allies V E Day Celebrations. Unfortunately, this and the May Day are on hold at the moment.

Left. The Parish Council planted £100 worth of daffodil bulbs last November at Ackers Crossing and this is the result! If anybody has any suggestions for other good planting sites, please contact the clerk as we have some more money put aside for next Autumn!



A Message from the Parish Council to all residents of the Parishes...

If there is anybody in our Parish who are self-isolating due to having underlying health issues, being elderly or vulnerable, and can't get out, please let us know through the Clerk; jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com or telephone 01260 641854 and we will be there to assist you. We are here to talk if you are feeling lonely or to assist with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. If there are any volunteers across the Parish please can you contact the Parish Council to make them aware and to help this operation.

Please STAY AT HOME! Follow government guidelines.

The Covid-19 (Coronavirus) infection has been declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organisation.

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council, its councillors and staff will endeavour to follow best practice and procedure as advised by government departments in respect of the current outbreak.

The Storehouse is a free foodbank operated by New Life Church from our Danesford Community Centre for emergency or extreme hardship situations.



How can I access the Foodbank?

Access to the service is through obtaining a Referral form from one of over 50 support organisations and agencies working in our community

e.g. Plus Dane Housing, Adullam Homes, Social Services, Mental Health Teams, Barnabus, Great Places, Aspire, Sanctuary Housing, CAB, Richmond Fellowship and many others.

Check the website please;

<https://www.nlchurch.org.uk/community/the-storehouse/#.XoMHzkBFyUk>

23 March 2020

COVID19: Government support for businesses

We are aware that clients may have questions regarding the Chancellor's announcement (20 March) of a range of measures to support employers and businesses due to the restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. This is a quick summary of our current view of the situation, which may change as further announcements are made.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

All UK employers can access support to continue paying part of their employees' salary for those employees that would otherwise have been laid off during this crisis. This may be appropriate for councils with leisure facilities, public halls or other income generating services, that might otherwise have to lay off staff. However, it doesn't appear to apply to staff who continue to work at home, are self-isolating due to the virus or redeployed to other activities, we think it only applies to those not working. In many cases council staff will be funded by the precept and maybe able to work from home, so situations where a local council needs to apply may be limited.

To apply, you will need to:

- designate affected employees as 'furloughed workers,' and notify them of this change - subject to existing employment law and contracts of employment
- submit information to HMRC about the employees that have been furloughed and their earnings through a new online portal (details not yet available)

HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. HMRC are setting up a system for reimbursement. This does not currently apply to people who are contracted to work on a self-employed basis.

Business Rates holiday

The Government has granted a business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses (and nurseries) in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. This will include:

shops, restaurants, cafés, drinking establishments, cinemas, live music venues
places for assembly and leisure
hotels, guest & boarding premises and self-catering accommodation

Unfortunately, note 17 of the guidance for billing authorities says that “In line with the legal restrictions in section 47 (8A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, billing authorities may not grant the discount to themselves, a precepting authority...” so it looks like local councils with such premises may not be entitled to a discount.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance>

Grants are available to certain affected businesses that have properties with rateable values of less than £51,000. Your billing authority will contact you if you are eligible.

Statutory Sick Pay and Universal Credit

The Government is amending legislation to allow small and medium-sized employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19.

The eligibility criteria for the scheme will be as follows:

- up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee off work because of COVID-19
- employers with fewer than 250 employees (as of 28 February 2020) will be eligible
- employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19
- employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP
- employees will not need to provide a GP fit note.

eligible period for the scheme will commence the day after the regulations on the extension of SSP to those staying at home comes into force

If an employer requires evidence, those with symptoms can get an isolation note from [NHS 111 online](#), or from the [NHS website](#) if they live with someone with symptoms.

The government is legislating for SSP to be paid from day 1 (rather than day 4) of absence from work if an employee is absent from work due to sickness or needs to self-isolate caused by COVID-19. Once passed, this will apply retrospectively from 13 March.

Statutory sick pay is currently a maximum of £94.25 per week for eligible employees.

Employers should note that they must comply with any sick pay terms set out in the employee's contract of employment. This may include a period of full pay and/or half pay, rather than just statutory sick pay. Under these circumstances the employer must pay the contractual amount, but may be entitled to reimbursement of up to £94.25 if the employee is eligible for SSP.

If an employee has COVID-19 or is advised to self-isolate and is not eligible for SSP (for example if they are earning below the Lower Earnings Limit of £118 per week) or contractual sick pay, they can make a claim for Universal Credit (UC) or new style Employment and Support Allowance. More information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance>.

VAT

The Government has deferred VAT payments due by VAT registered organisations for the period from 20 March 2020 to 30 June 2020 and they will be given until the end of the 2020/21 tax year to pay any liabilities accumulated during this period. This is unlikely to affect many local councils and VAT refunds and reclaims continue to be paid as normal.

Disclaimer

This guidance is issued to assist in finding and understanding the relevant legislation and guidance. It is not a statement of law, nor does it account for individual circumstances. The Parkinson Partnership LLP accepts no liability for any loss arising from situations where employers or employees have not followed the law and HMRC guidance.

If you live in the CACE area, please help us get the message out about our current access method and advice offer:

Citizens Advice Cheshire East are delivering advice by email and phone, if you have an issue you'd like help with directly from us, complete this form <https://www.citizensadvicece.org.uk/email> and we will be in touch.

WORDSCRAMBLE

Using the following 6 letters can you fill in all the spaces in the grid. **Each letter can only be used once in each separate word.**

Keep an eye on the website as we will update the grid every few days with a few more words if you get stuck! (there may be more than 1 correct solution!)

There are 19 words to fill in.

One word has been filled in to start you off.

L R D I G E

ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR

Joseph Hill Brindley was born in late 1886 and baptised on May 29th. 1887 at Astbury St. Mary, the son and third child of Joseph and Louisa Brindley (nee Hill) of Brownlow Farm. (married in Astbury church October 9th. 1882.) On the 1911 census he is living with parents and siblings at Brownlow farm. (latterly farmed by the Yates family)

Joseph attested very early in Macclesfield on 15 September 1914. He is still living in Brownlow and was 26 years 286 days old! He was 5 feet 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall and weighed 153 pounds. His regimental number was 52127 and he was in The Royal Engineers. He eventually rose to the rank of Sergeant.

Joseph distinguished himself and was awarded the "Distinguished Conduct Medal."

The army records state: "Awarded D C Medal for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He conducted wagons loaded with R E material through a very heavy barrage, displaying great courage and determination." London Gazette 13/2/1917

Joseph married Florence Elizabeth Yates at Astbury church in 1924 and they resided in Brownlow.

Joseph died in 1974.

Can anybody help? Again, please contact us if you have any information.



Clerks email for any correspondence: jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com

Who are we? Please feel free to get in touch!

John Carter (Chairman) 01260 275828 (A) **Julie Mason (Clerk)** 01260 641854 **Judith Critchlow (vice chair)** 01260 272174 (M)

Andy Banks 01260 281194 (A) Nick Barton 01260 280678 (A) Peter Cliff 01260 275700 (M)

Phill Critchlow 01260272174 (M) Barbara Jelf 01477500541 (M) Charles Kennerly 01260 272205 (A)

Rob Lomas 01260 272061 (A) Nick Plant 07801 545 402 (A) Nick Sharman 01260 271374 (A)

Roger Sutton 01260 273677 (A) John Ward 07788418264 (A)

(A) - Newbold Astbury Ward (M) - Moreton cum Alcumlow Ward

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

Next Meetings: Please check the website.

If you have an item for the next newsletter, any comments, or you would like to sponsor the mailing costs in return for including a leaflet, contact Phill Critchlow. (phill.critchlow@astbury-parish.org.uk)