

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Due to the current Covid Restrictions, Parish Council Meetings are held online with "Zoom."

If you wish to take part in a meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk, check the Website or Noticeboards for the information that you will need!

Website: <http://astbury-parish.org.uk>

Christmas Lights.

Once again, the village green looked stunning over the Christmas period, with the Sycamore Tree, floodlit and adorned with lights. On behalf of the 2 Parishes, and all the many people who enjoyed and photographed the lights, **The Parish Council** would like to say a great big "Thank You" for the generosity of the people who supply the lights, give time to set it up and take it down, and provide the electricity.

The Parish Council would also like to welcome our new Parish Councillor, Ian Parry.



Astbury School News

Whilst in lockdown, key worker children were in school enjoying the snow on the school field. They searched for animal tracks and looked for clues to identify them. In following the tracks they used their detective skills to discuss the activities they thought the animals had been doing. The children also had great fun making tracks of their own!

The garden tools are usually used to maintain the wildlife area on the field, but the children put them to good use on a snowy day. The snow was a little powdery, not the best for making a snowman, however, the children were not to be put off and persevered with their creation!

To find out more information about our school, visit www.astburyschool.org.uk and follow us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/astburyschool>



Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Cheshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cheshire is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cheshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) - one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

A plea from the Parish Clerk.

All your Council services are provided by Cheshire East Council. If you have any problems with any of those services, you will generally get them resolved more speedily if you go to Cheshire East Council rather than via our Clerk. You will find all the necessary contact details on [their contacts page](#). [Home\(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](http://Home(cheshireeast.gov.uk))

For example, for problems with waste and recycling bins, go to [their recycling and bin collections page](#). [Bins, waste and recycling\(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](#)

Or to report a road condition problem (such as a pothole or blocked gully), go to [their road condition and repairs page](#) [Road condition and repairs\(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](#). You will be given a code for each such problem your report: you can use this code to check on progress.

If a month or more goes by without progress, then do contact our Clerk and the Parish Council will chase it up.

80 Years of WI at Astbury



2020 was destined to be a memorable year for Astbury WI and memorable it has certainly been!

Unfortunately, in common with many other WIs it has been memorable for all the wrong reasons.

80 years ago last month our WI held its Foundation Meeting.

It was 6th November 1940 when the first Meeting to form a Committee was held at The Rectory, following the first meeting of The Women's Institute. The Minutes of this meeting show that the first Secretary was Mrs Yates and the minutes were signed by the first President Marjorie Stuart Johnson on 27th November. The plan for the second meeting was discussed and Miss Caterham "kindly undertook to light the fire and prepare the room."

The first officers were;

President; Mrs Stuart Johnson

Vice President; Mrs Dunkley

Secretary; Mrs Yates

Treasurer; Mrs Porter.

There was a committee of ten elected members plus two co-opted members, which was almost half the membership. 20 years ago, when I first joined Mrs Joyce Porter was still quite an active member. The first treasurer was, I believe, Mrs Annie Porter, who was Joyce's mother-in-law and Joyce Porter (whom I remember) was then Miss Caterham. Mrs C.W Hocknell (co-opted member of that first committee) was mother-in-law to Margaret Hocknell, who has herself been both President and Treasurer in her time and is a stalwart of our bowling team.

Amongst our archives there is a letter dated 15th November welcoming the newly formed group at Astbury from Lady Denman, who was then the National Chairman. We were, according to the letter the five thousand, seven hundred and twenty seventh institute to be formed and in an organisation of 331,883 members across all counties in England and Wales. She talked of sister Institutes in Canada (where the organisation originated) and Australia and was keen that we should recognise that our Women's institute was part of " something more than just social clubs!" At the moment, though we are not able to meet, we are sharing the suggested resolutions which the WI Nationally will work to bring to the nation's attention to influence those, who can bring about change for the better.

The Programme for the first year at Astbury included, A Cookery Demonstration at Henshall Hall, Wool embroidery and War-time Thrift, Community Singing, Salvage— the prevention of waste and a Dressmaking Demonstration. Times have changed but the themes and interests remain largely the same. Early in the year I wrote; 2020 has begun well for members of Astbury WI with a talk by Valerie Jones of Tytherington Treacles, who gave us a lively and fascinating account of Why they Bared All . She told us all about the process of making a calendar for breast cancer.

On Wednesday 5th February, they had a wonderfully informative talk and demonstration from Charles Hardy, a Chocolatier from The Old Fire Station at Tarporley . He told members of his family connections with sweets like Cherry Lips. when his grandfather took over the Squirrel factory in Stockport. He chatted about the family connections with sweets through three generations when finally he and his family decided to specialise and make beautiful hand-made, continental truffles.

In March we had a drumming session, led by David Hext leader of the percussion section in the Halle Orchestra. We have since sewn scrubs and made ear-protectors for the NHS, Knitted squares for blankets for the homeless, crocheted blankets in lockdown our most prolific knitter has now achieved 30 sets of hats and mittens for children from disadvantaged families. Thanks must go to all those members who have contributed. Our officials have chatted regularly and tried to communicate with members on a regular basis. We have created a risk assessment in the hope that we could resume our meetings in the Autumn, but were only able to hold one socially distanced Committee Meeting, before the rule of six decimated our plans. Sadly we have not risen as a group to the challenge of Zoom Meetings, although the National Federation seem to be keen that we should all be doing so. We shall hope that with the recent developments we have light at the end of the tunnel that was 2020 and that we shall be able to meet and celebrate a belated 80th Birthday in 2021. 2021 has arrived with the promise of better times once the vaccine roll out begins to bear fruit. As a WI we look forward hopefully towards a time when we shall be able to meet in the village hall and feel safe to conduct our meetings and enjoy the camaraderie which being a member of the WI brings.

At present we are waiting for communication from both Cheshire Federation and National giving us a way forward. Zoom Meetings are available to those members who have the technology and wish to join in. We have not as an individual WI organised Zoom Meetings but have tried to keep in touch with our members on a more individual and personal level. We have shared monthly updates from Cheshire and National and have developed different lines of mutual support, including phone calls, email and a WhatsApp group whose members cheer each other up on a more or less daily basis. Any of our members wishing to join that group should just send their mobile numbers to me (Margaret) and I will add them.

We are aware that Christmas and New Year have been a tough time for some of our members. We are thinking of them all and hope that they and all our members know we are only a phone call away should they need a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on or simply a chat to brighten a weary day. We are happy to welcome new members at all times but are aware that what we can offer is limited at this difficult and unprecedented time. No one can predict when we shall be able to meet up but it is our hope that there will soon be light at the end of that particular tunnel as we head towards the Spring and a hopeful reawakening of a happier time for us all.

We would like to wish all our members and friends a very Happy, Safe and Healthy 2021.

Members' Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 1940 November 6th at the Rectory, Astbury, following the formation of the Astbury Women's Institute. In the absence of the President, Mrs Witherspoon took the chair. Present, Mrs Bond, Mrs Brindley, Mrs Caterham, Miss S. Johnson, Miss Y. Johnson, Mrs Willis, Mrs Yates. It was proposed by Mrs Brindley, seconded by Mrs Willis, and carried, that Mrs Yates should be appointed Secretary. The appointment of the Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer was deferred to the next meeting. Arrangements for the next monthly meeting of the Institute were discussed, and Mrs Caterham kindly undertook to light the fire and prepare the room.

Margaret Pearson (President)
Kath Wainwright (Vice President)
Liz Edmunds (Secretary)
Lisa Spencer (Treasurer)
and all our hardworking committee members.



L to R Liz Edmunds, Margaret Pearson, and Lisa Spencer our current Secretary, President and Treasurer.

2nd picture L/R Rhoda Bailey, Cath Cunliffe, Gwen



Marjorie Stuart Johnson Nov 27th 1940.



Page from original 1940 Minutes Book. The original meeting place was apparently a building called "The institute" and Miss Caterham who volunteered to light the fire was (I have discovered) the lady I remember as Joyce Porter.

The Cheshire Environmental Team has asked us to include the following information into our Newsletter, after investigating several incidents around the Parishes, during the tail end of last year. **This applies to all systems that were in place before January 1st. 2015.** For further information and details of the regulations for systems fitted after this date, please see the Parish Website (details in the Newsletter) or on Gov.uk under septic systems.

The following general binding rules apply to all small sewage discharges:			
#	Discharges to surface water	Discharges to ground	General binding rule
1		X	The discharge must be 2 cubic metres or less per day in volume.
2	X		The discharge must be 5 cubic metres or less per day in volume.
3	X	X	The sewage must only be domestic.
4	X	X	The discharge must not cause pollution of surface water or groundwater.
5		X	The sewage must receive treatment from a septic tank and infiltration system (drainage field) or a sewage treatment plant and infiltration system. The sewage must receive treatment from a septic tank and infiltration system (drainage field) or a sewage treatment plant and infiltration system.
6	X		The sewage must receive treatment from a sewage treatment plant.
7		X	The discharge must not be within a groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 or within 50 metres from any well, spring or borehole that is used to supply water for domestic or food production purposes.
8	X	X	All works and equipment used for the treatment of sewage effluent and its discharge must comply with the relevant design and manufacturing standards ie the British Standard that was in force at the time of the installation, and guidance issued by the appropriate authority on the capacity and installation of the equipment.
9	X	X	The system must be installed and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's specification.
10	X	X	Maintenance must be undertaken by someone who is competent.
11	X	X	Waste sludge from the system must be safely disposed of by an authorised person.
12	X	X	If a property is sold, the operator must give the new operator a written notice stating that a small sewage discharge is being carried out, and giving a description of the waste water system and its maintenance requirements.
13	X	X	The operator must ensure the system is appropriately decommissioned where it ceases to be in operation so that there is no risk of pollutants or polluting matter entering groundwater, inland fresh

ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR



Continuing the story of the brave men who went off to fight in the First World War, and thankfully returned to their loved ones to carry on their lives. There is a board in the church commemorating their memory. We hope to produce a leaflet with information on all of the soldiers eventually, with as many details as possible, so that they are not forgotten with the passage of time.

Arthur and George POTTS were probably brothers, from Lime Kiln Farm, Newbold Astbury. Sadly no records have come to light yet for George, (which makes him hard to trace.) and only one for Arthur. He had been a private in the Labour Corps. of the South Lancashire Regiment and was awarded a pension, having suffered gunshot wounds to both legs. He was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War medal.

They were most likely the sons of Joseph and Sarah Ellen Potts (nee Dale) married at Hulme Walfield church in the last quarter of 1886. They went on to have 5 children including Arthur, born 2nd July 1889, baptised at Astbury Church 25th. August 1889, who married Martha Ellen Gray, Astbury 1924, still farming at Lime Kiln Farm in 1939, and survived until 1973. His brother George, was born 12th July 1892, baptised at Astbury 30th. August 1891, married Beatrice Ethel Johnson, Astbury 1921, and they were farming at Brieryhurst Farm, Kidsgrove in 1939. He died in 1972.

Ernest RATCLIFFE - There is no one of this name living in Astbury or Moreton in 1901 or 1911. The only person I can find locally, is the son of Thomas and Annie Ratcliffe who in the 1911 census, were running a dairy farm at Gutter Lane, Knypersley. They had a son Ernest living at home who was a joiner. Maybe he ended up working on a farm or the smithies in one or other Parish between the census being taken and the end of the War?

James ROWLEY- James was the son of James and Mary Rowley (nee Bradshaw) who married in Barthomley church in 1896. By the time of the 1901 census the family are living in Haslington, where James senior is a blacksmith and James junior aged 1 is at home. (he was born 3/8/1899) At some point between then and 1911 they lived in Smallwood, as a sibling on the 1911 census was born there. On the 1911 census they are living in Astbury village where James senior is a shoeing blacksmith (at the bottom of the village, perhaps?) and James junior is at school.



James signed up at Crewe on the 5th. September 1917 and was accepted into the Royal Flying Corps. the next day. This was probably due to the fact he is described as a carpenter of Astbury Village. His job was an aero rigger which involved making repairs to the wooden frame, controls and canvas of the early aircraft which had been damaged in combat. When he joined up he was described as 18 years and 1 month old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, brown hair and grey eyes. He was discharged from the service on 30th. April 1920. After the war, James married Maud Harding in Stoke, 1922 and on the 1939 Register, Maud is living with her family at Brownlow. There is no mention of James, so perhaps he was recalled to the services? I have found both their deaths in the Stoke area in 1984.

Charles PEDLEY- Unfortunately at present there are no available service records for Charles. He was born at Motterstall Cottages (part of the Moreton Estate, but no longer extant) in Odd Rode, (right next to the Parish boundary of Moreton and only accessible by footpaths!) He was born on the 3rd. March 1899, son of William Henry (railway platelayer) and Emily Pedley (nee Dale) who married at Smallwood St. John in 1898. On both the 1901 and 1911 censuses he is living with his grandparents in the Crossing Keepers Cottage at Ackers Crossing (sadly, no longer extant). The 1939 register records him living at "The Woodlands", Moreton, where he is described as a widower and clerk at the cattle market. Sadly his wife of only 2 years (Ida Skelland Bennion) had died in 1937. I believe he remarried in 1944 in Stoke to Alice Berisford. I think Charles died in 1966 in Liverpool.

If anyone has any corrections, more information, or photographs, please contact the clerk or Phill Critchlow (details of both below)



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) Ian Parry 07917 050 443 (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)