

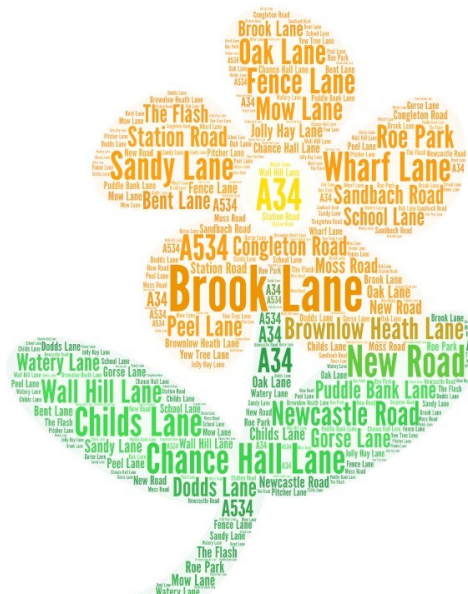
Website: <http://astbury-parish.org.uk>

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETON

PARISHES NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

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, **The Parish Council** would like to say a great big "Thank You" to the many generous people involved who supply the lights, gave time to set it up and take it down, provide the electricity and who helped in any way at all.



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Save the Date!



The Parish Council extends a warm welcome to our latest co-opted Parish Councillor, Megan Bailey of Brook Lane, Moreton cum Alcumlow. Seen here with the chair Judith Critchlow.

ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING 2022

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council will hold its Annual Parishes Meeting on Wednesday 13th. April 2022 at 7.00 pm. in Astbury Village Hall.

There will be a Chairman's Report

There will also be an opportunity to discuss Parish Issues

Full details and further information will be found shortly on the Website and in the next Newsletter.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Astbury & Moreton Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by Cheshire East Council as the Planning Policy of the Parishes on the 17th August 2017 following a Referendum. After 5 years the Plan is now eligible for review and updating with implementation in September 2022.

The Parish Council has set up a Working Group based on those Councillors and Residents who prepared the initial Plan, to evaluate the existing Policies under the following categories:-

Effectiveness/ National Regulation and Policy/Local Policy/Local circumstances and evidence/local opinion.

Any Residents who would like to be involved or contribute to this process are invited to contact Cllr. Nick Sharman.

A letter from the Rector:

One of my highlights of last year was seeing Astbury village come back to life. I took part in the Live Nativity for the first time as Rector, dressing up as the Spirit of the Ancient Yew and taking everyone back in time to see what we saw 2000 years ago. I was inspired by what the ingenious people of Astbury can do, from acting to putting up an enormous Christmas Tree in the church.

The Live Nativity raised some much needed funds for St Mary's which relies very significantly on community support. And this year we have big plans! We want to see the church used for a lot more purposes – concerts, history visits, and we want it to have open doors. We want a church building which is used by everyone in the community, and not just on Sundays. And St Mary's has some of the best acoustics I have ever heard in a church – as Russell Watson demonstrated when he tested them recently!

We need better facilities to make this happen, for example improving toilets and refreshment facilities. It is quite complicated to make even small changes to Grade I listed buildings – rightly so – so whilst there are probably going to be some grants we can obtain we need significant funds to be able to pay for expert advice and plans. The good news is that we are going to have some fun doing this, through some very creative and generous people!

We are planning more summer concerts with refreshments, and we are hoping to relaunch our Friends scheme, opening up the historic and cultural aspects of church to those who are interested in it. Look out for the event celebrating the 750th anniversary of Congleton's charter, and the walk to church via Priestly Fields, and start thinking about how you would decorate your gate in a gate-dressing competition!

Mark Bailey of Mark's Events has committed to raising £25,000 to improve the educational facilities at Glebe Farm. Mark has committed to do the same for the church - although because there are 52 weeks in a year, he's decided to round it up to £26,000. There will be various fund-raising events throughout the year, such as the Platinum Jubilee weekend, a replication of the Noah's Ark story, and an Elvis night in a marquee at Glebe Farm – Elvis has performed for HRH the Queen on 3 separate occasions.

If you would like tickets for the Elvis night, it will be hosted in the marquee at Glebe Farm on Friday 8th April. Tickets are available from Mark at Glebe Farm (at the Plant stall) or calling 07722 008421.

Tickets are £25 including food.

Anne-Marie

PS If you are a knitter or crocheter, we would love some animals that we can sell at the Noah's Ark storytelling event, as well as red, white and blue bunting.

ASTBURY LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Now that the Ladies Fellowship is meeting in the afternoon, our Christmas supper became a buffet luncheon with members providing the delicious food. Anne-Marie led us in Communion and we prayed for people who are ill or combating problems, and the afternoon finished with a quiz. Disappointingly our winter lunch at the Legs of Man had to be postponed but we meet on 16th February at 1.30 pm in Astbury village hall for our AGM when Anne-Mare will be our speaker.

In March, we have Mark from Biddulph Physiotherapy who will take us through some exercises (remedial not aerobic!) which should gear up our fitness, particularly the bowling members for the coming season. Easter is later this year, and we shall hear about Easter customs in Cheshire on Wed. 20th April at our open meeting at 1 30pm in Astbury village hall. If you would like to join us, you will be very welcome.

For any more information about the Astbury Women's Fellowship, please contact Carole Goodwin

Tel 01260 274190

Wellies on, waterproof trousers too - all ready for the seasonal walk to the wishing stream. Children enjoyed walking across the fields and taking in the scenery, exploring the winter season and looking for changes since their autumn walk. Science learning on the doorstep of our school!

Children in years one and two were learning about stewardship and how to look after the world God gave us. They thought that littering spoils the world so they decided to do something about it. After collecting two big bags full of litter, the children were very surprised and left wondering why people would drop so much litter in our village.

After learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, children wrote their own versions and published them. They met the year five and six children in the friendship garden to read their stories to them. Developing loving and caring relationships across Astbury School is at the heart of our Astbury family. The children have completed a sponsored read to raise money to buy more books for school and year five children are training to be reading ambassadors, promoting a love of reading across the school.

This year, Astbury May Day will be on Saturday 21st May. In keeping with tradition, on the last Friday in January, the draw took place in school for this year's May Queen, Attendants and new King of Newbold Astbury. Melody and Darcy take on the roles this year, with Freya and Katie supporting them.

For children age three and four, Astbury Acorns is open every day and wrap around care is available through MereKats. Please call **01260 272528** to book a visit for you and your child.

To find out more information about our Pre-School and School, visit www.astburyschool.org.uk



ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR 1914-1918

John CLIFFE: John was born in 1893 in the Congleton area. His parents were Joseph Ward Cliffe and Mary life (nee Ford) who had married at St. Peter's Church Congleton on 14/6/1886. By the time of the 1901 census the family are living at Astbury Marsh, where Joseph is a cattleman on a farm and John is at school. By the time of the 1911 census the family are at Astbury Marsh Farm where Joseph is a farmer and John is a worker on the farm. John signed up on the 17th. April 1915 at Congleton. He became a driver in the Royal Engineers and his regimental number was Private 35252. At the time he was 22 years and 2 months old and was 5 feet 5 inches tall. His father had written a letter to say that he able to work and drive horses. After his discharge from the army, he married Doris Richards in 1918 at St. James's church, and they had two children, John 1920 and Doris may 1924. Sadly John didn't live to a great age as he passed away at Astbury Marsh aged 42 and was buried 18/7/1935 in Astbury. His family were still living in Congleton in Davenport Street when the 1939 register was taken.

William (Henry) CLIFFE. This soldier was baptised at Astbury church on 14/2/1892, parents Samuel and Eliza Cliffe of Astbury, father a miner. In 1901 the family are in Astbury village and William is at school. (father now a blacksmith) By the time of the 1911 census he is in the village with his mother and siblings. However, he had emigrated to Canada in 1910 so must have been back for a visit. He is a blacksmiths apprentice. He signed up in Winnipeg, Canada on 13/7/1917, where he is 25, weighs 140 pounds and is 5 feet 8 inches tall, a blacksmith and his next of kin is his mother Eliza of Astbury. He was part of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary force as part of the Royal Engineers and eventually rose to the rank of acting sergeant. His discharge papers dated 27/7/1920 show him being repatriated to Canada. Sadly I have no further information about him.



Alfred (John) HICKS. The only Alfred Hicks that I can find is living in Moreton Hall Gardens in 1911 where he is head gardener and recently married to Ellen. He was born near Newport, Shropshire c 1876. I can't find any surviving service records so far. Do you know anything about this soldier, or any of the others? If so please contact Phill Critchlow or the Clerk. Thank you.

Clerks email for any correspondence: clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk

Who are we? Please feel free to get in touch

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Roger Sutton 01260 273677 (A)	John Ward 07788418264 (A)	Megan Bailey 01260 641292 (M)

(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)