

Website:

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

email: clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton

Parish Council

Newsletter

August 2023



Defibrillator Update

The defibrillators that we have across the parish are nearing the end of their lives and it's becoming increasingly difficult to source replacement parts such as pads, batteries etc. Some of you know that the defib in the Ackers Crossing phone box was destroyed by a power surge at the end of last year as well. We're very pleased to say that thanks to the generosity of local businessman, Andrew Pear, we've been able to get not one, but three new defib units as replacements. We'd like to offer our sincere thanks to Andrew for all his support in the parish.

As for Ackers Crossing, we are working with our insurance company and the Community Heartbeat Trust to repair the phone box and secure the electricity supply before we can replace the defib unit itself.

MAKE A CHANGE. BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council still has 2 vacancies for Councillors, who are passionate about their community and the parishes of Newbold Asbury and Moreton cum Alcumlow.

What do councillors do?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes. Becoming a councillor will allow you to make a real difference in your community by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the services are meeting your community's needs.

Can I stand? There are some eligibility criteria such as being a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of an EU member state. You must be 18 or over and show specific links to the area. For further information please contact our clerk, Carlton Evans at: clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk



Brownlow Heath Lane and A34 daffodils in early April 2023 planted by the Parish Council last year, supported by Sibelco and their handyman John Slack who kindly drilled the holes for us. Our thanks go to John, Sibelco and the planters!

POTHOLES!

If you know of any **pot holes** please go to: fixmystreet.cheshireeast.gov.uk to report them!

Did you know that you can make a claim against CE for damage from potholes?

Go to: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/highways-licences-and-permits/making-a-claim.aspx#:~:text=You%20have%20a%20right%20to,Act%20to%20maintain%20the%20highway

News from Astbury School

We are delighted to share with the parish our 'GOOD' OFSTED outcome. The inspection report says 'Pupils are proud to come to Astbury St Mary's CofE Primary School. They said that they enjoy learning. Staff welcome pupils warmly into school every day. Pupils and staff have positive relationships. Pupils said this helps them feel happy, well cared for and safe. Leaders have high expectations of pupils. Pupils try hard to live up to these standards. Pupils behave well around school and work hard in lessons.'

We celebrated the King's coronation with a school tea party. Children from Pre-School to Y6 and the school community played a huge part in the village May Day celebrations; running stalls, dancing, singing and helping set up and tidy away. It was a wonderful community event enjoyed by thousands.

Recently, we hosted a group of people with dementia and their carers. The 'forget me not' group came to school and we went on a summer holiday together! The relationships between our children and the visitors were beautiful. Children in Y5 and Y6 enjoyed a fabulous residential at Petty Pool. Many families joined us in school for our father's day lunch. We have worked with Congleton Rotary and had winning entries in an art competition.

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



Astbury May Day 2023!

Cast your minds back to May - the sun was shining and there was a hum of excitement in the air as Glebe Farm once again opened their gates kindly hosting Astbury May Day 2023. From the moment the gates opened the field became alive with the sound of chatter, laughter and fun. As we were entertained by our fantastic school children and their traditional May Pole Dancing, live music, food and drink a plenty.

On behalf of the May Day Committee we would like to thank all our Volunteers, stallholders, parents, children and anyone else who contributed in any way. We are thrilled to announce that **the day raised £8165** which will be donated to local causes. Those set to benefit from the day include Astbury Primary School, Astbury Church, Astbury Mere Trust, Astbury Toddler Group, The Scouts, Brownies, Rainbows, The Women's Institute and Women's Fellowship, along with Congleton.com

From improved toilet facilities, computer equipment and defibrillators to give just a few examples. When you support May Day, you are helping us to do this - and as many people have said, there is no other Village Fete quite like Astbury May Day!

SO, SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 18th May 2024!

Astbury Church Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to try singing in a choir, or did you belong to one in the past but now feel a bit rusty? Come and have a go at St Mary's. Everyone is most welcome and we teach you the notes, so you don't have to be a brilliant sight-reader. Rehearsals are every Friday evening in church, 7.00 to 8.00, and are relaxed and enjoyable - we hope!

Our robed choir sings two services a month at 6.30 and a less formal group lead morning worship at 11.00. Some singers, who can only attend occasionally, just come to rehearsals for significant services such as Christmas or Easter.

Also, we have a special choir service on Sunday, 10 September at 6.30. Singers are invited to join us for a Tudor 'Come and Sing' Evensong, with an afternoon rehearsal from 2.30 to 5.30.

Please contact our director of music, Sally Drage, for more information: email music@astburychurch.org.uk or text 07977 90356

Our April meeting for lunch was a very special one. We met for lunch at the Legs of Man to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. There were flowers and balloons skilfully arranged by Jan Hardie Woolridge, a fruit cake iced to copy our banner in blue, for St. Mary with daffodils and a painting of the church by Jayne Goodwin, and for each member a chocolate egg carrying chick knitted by Pamela Price. Our special guest was Dawn Brazier who had come from Wotherton on the Welsh border to be with us. Some of you will remember 1992 when Eric Brazier came to be Rector of Astbury. His wife Dawn called the ladies together and asked us if we would like to form a church group. As there was no longer a Mothers' Union, we opted to form a Fellowship, and so Astbury Ladies' Fellowship came into being in April 1992. We still have members who were at that first meeting, including Christine Brooks, Carole Goodwin and Kath Wainwright who are on our present committee. We were delighted that Dawn was able to join us for lunch. She went round chatting to members. Eric has just recently retired. He was unable to come, but sent good wishes to everyone. Thanks were expressed to all who had made the lunch so special, particularly to Jan our tireless secretary, who is taking a break due to family commitments, and to Dawn for her effort in coming. We were pleased our MayDay plant stall raised £253, some will go towards church flowers. We were delighted to be part of the group which welcomed Rev Steph Morris to be our Associate Priest at a Licensing Service led by Bishop Sam on 14th June. So much has been going on, anyone who would like to come to our meetings would be so welcome to join us. Contact Carole on 01260 263323.

Astbury WI

Members of Astbury WI met in the Village Hall on Wednesday 5th July to enjoy their monthly meeting. President Margaret Pearson welcomed everyone, reminding them that it was the 75th birthday of the NHS. She also extended a special welcome to our visitor Jane Sharman and to our speaker for the evening, Sue Wolberg, who shared with us her passion for making French beaded flowers.

The meeting opened with the traditional rendition of Jerusalem accompanied by our pianist, Margaret Hollinshead. Margaret thanked her for accompanying our singing, Carol Steer for providing a pretty arrangement of flowers for the President's table, and Cath Cunliffe for birthday buttonholes for ladies with July or August birthdays. Two members will be having special birthdays before we meet again in September for our usual monthly meeting. We shall be meeting up in August, when our traditional annual outing has been replaced by the unveiling of the plaque for our commemorative tree. This will take place at Glebe Farm on Wednesday 2nd August. Members who wish to attend and have not already put their names down should contact our secretary, Liz Edmunds as soon as possible. The ceremony will be performed by Russell Watson and followed by an "afternoon tea buffet" in the Village Hall for members and invited guests.

The business of the evening included all the usual elements. Members had received correspondence items from Cheshire Federation forwarded by Liz, who followed up on those whose deadlines are imminent. This seems to be working well. Catherine reminded members of the Dane Valley Group events including a Flower Arranging Demonstration by Dorothy Monks and Afternoon Tea at Lower Withington on Thursday 27th July. She also reminded us of the Fun Quiz on 21st September which will also be held at Lower Withington. The Autumn Group Meeting will also be held there in October. We are hosting the Dane Valley Bowling Fun Day on Tuesday 12th September at Congleton Bowls and Cricket Club.

Our visitor, Jane Sharman invited the WI to take part in a Craft Day to be held at St Mary's Astbury on Saturday 30th September. A stall will cost £20 and can contain any sort of handmade items. Members are welcome to attend the event or may choose to participate by having a stall.

Our Striders Group organised to a walk at Sutton Reservoir on Friday 7th July. This proved to be a delightful walk, in beautiful surroundings, on a sunny day and followed by a tasty lunch at Sutton Hall. On Monday 10th the Knit and Natter group will be changing their postbox toppers at Astbury and outside The Horseshoe. As I write, this has been done and we have already had lots of positive reaction to our handiwork. It is so good to know that the wider community appreciate our efforts. Thank you, to those who react and tell us what they think on various Facebook Groups including our own page.

We look forward to our unveiling ceremony next month. There will also be an Afternoon Tea at Congleton Golf Club to celebrate WI Day on Thursday 14th September. We shall also be having a Coffee Morning, (our first since the pandemic) at Congleton Library on Saturday 23rd at 9.30am till 11.30 am. We hope the event will be well supported by members and friends and the wider community within the town. There will be the usual mix of stalls including cakes, bottlebola, bric-a-brac and a raffle.

Sue Wolberg shared with members her exquisite creations. She told us a little about the history of French beaded flowers, what her "hobby" entails and how these wonderful crafts become a passion rather than a mere hobby. She even confessed to taking beads along with her on a cruise. Many of us would have understood her compulsion to buy beads from any and every part of the world, but not to actually take them away with her. That just left us fairly stunned! We were also stunned by the beauty of the flowers which she crafted. Sue kindly judged our competition for an item made of beads, which was won by Carol Steer.

Our September Meeting will be on Wednesday 6th September at the usual time of 7.30 pm. The Speaker for the evening will be Anthony Norman from Conquest Plant Nursery at Bosley. The competition will be for "A plant related recycling idea" Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. If you would like to come along or need further information, please contact Kate on 07875691170, Liz on 07766738004 or Margaret on 07581095418. They will be only too pleased to answer any questions you may have.

ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR

As promised, an update on Edward Dodd from a previous newsletter, kindly provided by Jacky O'Donoghue (Corbishley)

EDWARD "TEDDY" DODD

Edward was born at Bank Farm, Astbury, 1898 (born 17/8/1898) son of Annie Dodd. Annie died when Edward - Teddy as he was always called - was aged 3. He was raised by his grand-father Job Dodd. Teddy attended Astbury School and it is thought he left around the age of 13 to be apprentice to Mr Hickin on a shooting estate at Newbold for approximately twelve months and then to serve under a Mr Ashton at Goyt Valley where he was in charge of the kennels. At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 he was keeper to Sir Robert Jardine at his estate at Castle Milk, Lockerbie in Scotland. At this time Teddy joined the Army and was sent to Egypt. There is no information amongst the articles that the family hold in which regiment Teddy served but it is hoped that a little research will disclose further information. However a post card sent at Christmas 1918 indicated at that time that he was in Palestine.

After the war Teddy held various positions including a similar position with Giles Guthrie, the air ace. It was on the estate of Sir Jock Jardine in Scotland that he met his future wife Janet.

The family who still reside at Bank Farm today are particularly proud of Teddy's further career when in 1937 he went to Sandringham as a gamekeeper, and subsequently as kennelman at the Royal kennels. In that capacity he had charge of the late King George VI's gundogs, mainly retrievers, as well as the dogs of other members of the Royal Family, including the pet corgi of Queen Elizabeth and those of the Duke of Gloucester for whom he had a particular regard. About the time of King George VI's accession he was honoured by a personal invitation from His Majesty to become the estates Head Gamekeeper. He accompanied King George VI on shooting trips to Balmoral where he acted as loader.

He had a close working relationship with the late King and also as a friend. Teddy was deeply shocked upon the death of the King in 1952 having accompanied him on the last few days spent shooting at Sandringham. He stood to guard the coffin of the late King as it lay in Sandringham Church. (This picture can be found on the internet and Teddy is stood to the right). Teddy remained at Sandringham in his capacity to serve for the late Queen Elizabeth. One of his last pupils was the now King Charles.

Teddy lived on the estate with his wife and two children (Teddy Jnr and Marjorie) and had a staff of about six or eight keepers. Teddy Jnr and Marjorie had a double wedding ceremony at Sandringham Church and the family have a photograph of the happy couples on the Sandringham Fire Engine! Teddy Jnr went on to follow in his father's footsteps holding positions at Balmoral and Sandringham. Mr Dodd's cousin Edith Gray and Mr and Mrs Reg Corbishley, whom some of you will have known, spent holidays at Sandringham.



Tragically In 1964 whilst out gassing rabbits it is thought that some of the gas caught in the wind, was blown back, and inhaled by Teddy. He died on the 27th April 1964. He is buried with his wife in the churchyard at Sandringham Church.

Two other snippets of information are that wreaths were sent from the Queen Mother and the late Queen Elizabeth when Teddy died. Also that Teddy was very proud of the fact that his grandchild was the first after the late King to be born at York House, Sandringham.

There may be a supplement to this in another Newsletter.

Clerk's email for any correspondence: clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk

Who are we? Please feel free to get in touch

Judith Critchlow(Chair) 01260272174 (M) Carlton Evans(Clerk) 07734808677 Nick Plant(vice chair) 07801545402 (A)

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) Carrie Sutton 07979 983915 (A)

Megan Bailey 01260 641292 (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)