

# NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETO

## PARISHES NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

**Website:** <http://astbury-parish.org.uk>  
**email:** [clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk)

### Update on The Neighbourhood Plan.

It's been a while since we received your comments to our consultation, but we've been working hard to make our Neighbourhood Plan reflect your views, as well as respond to changes in planning legislation and the latest versions of Cheshire East's Local Plan.

We're working on the final stages and hope to have this updated version ready to post out to you early next year. There will then be a six-week consultation period during which we will welcome your views and comments on the revised Plan: there will be a tear-off sheet at the end of the plan if you prefer to post them to us, and an email address if that's your preference. Each member of your household can respond: the more the better!

After the consultation, we'll update the Plan again in light of your comments — and any we receive from a long list of "statutory consultees" — before we send the revised Plan to Cheshire East Council.

We'll be updating the Neighbourhood Plan page on our website (<https://astbury-parish.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>) so you can check out what happens thereafter.

Nick Sharman  
Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

### Update on The Common Land, Brownlow Heath.

The hedgerow saplings and the six new native trees are all growing well. It is an ongoing battle at the moment to try and stop the nettles taking over the pathways (apart from at the bottom end where we are letting them be part of a wild nature area.) The pathways are relatively clear at the moment, as is the log seating area, thanks to work organised by Councillor C Sutton and also our local contractor. More native daffodils are due to be planted this Autumn as well as some more wild-flower seeds.

Some members of the common Land working group met Pip Blythe, the head of Astbury school to discuss thoughts and ideas about how the children could make use of the space in the future. eg. the idea of a quiet space for reflection and peace etc.

#### POPPIES

Look out for our large poppies which will be erected around the parishes in mid October. How many can you spot?

#### DAFFODILS

The Parish Council will be planting daffodils on the village green on Saturday 14th. October at 10.00 am. Feel free to come and help!





## ASTBURY LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Following our special 30th. Anniversary lunch in May, Astbury Ladies Fellowship met in June to hear a talk from Hannah Goodwin about her travels in Europe (with a farming focus). She had worked for a breeding company advising farmers on the choice of bulls to improve their herds. In Italy, she visited a dairy farm which had a storeroom containing 8 million euros worth of parmesan cheese. In South Africa a 1000 strong herd of Jersey cows shared their enormous acreage with a herd of elephants. In the U K, Cheshire, being an area of high rainfall, had the highest density of cows in a county.

July saw us in the Legs of Man for our summer luncheon; once again they looked after us very well. Our thanks go to Pamela Price for organising it.

We didn't have a large meeting in August, but some of us met at a series of concerts held in the church on Sunday afternoons— a delightful, relaxing experience listening to such performers as Tonic, Quaternity, Archie Halward and the Moletton singers, and followed by delicious home made cakes.

We have sent out red roses and get well cards and gone to Clayton Manor Care Home to visit a former member. There in the grounds was the Bear Town Rickshaw which is a comfortable open air two seater, which will take people with limited mobility for a one hour ride. The rickshaw is powered by a third person pedalling, with the help of an electric motor and can take you to visit such places as Astbury Mere, and Congleton park. Its volunteers rely solely on donations, and we felt this was something we would like to help. Our Rector, Anne-Marie and our Reader Bev have led the church members in a six week course called "Discipleship Explored" We discussed the letter that the Apostle, Paul, wrote to the Philippians. We had stimulating discussions and if anyone would like to join a new evening of Bible study, which began on the 4th September, please contact the Rector on 01260 228294.

At our September meeting the speaker was unable to come she filled in at short notice by reading a children's parable to us "You are special" by Max Lucado. We remembered books we had read as children. We discussed the pew stall craft fair to be held at the church on 30th September (proceeds to the church.) Members have bought items for it. In October we shall have a speaker from Water Aid and in November, Peter Durnall with his national award winning slides on birdlife. You will be very welcome to come to any meeting - just come to Astbury village hall on 18th October or 15th November for 1.30 pm, enjoy the meeting and a cup of tea.

### Carole Goodwin 01260263323 Fellowship Chair.

### Astbury WI September

Astbury WI met in the Village Hall on Wednesday 6th September. Our busy meeting heralded the start of an exciting month for our members. Our President, Margaret was delighted to welcome back several members who had been unable to attend our meetings for a while. She was also delighted to welcome a couple of visitors. We hope that they enjoyed their evening with us and that they will find their niche in our happy WI.

The meeting began with the singing of Jerusalem, and many thank you's. The evening's business reflected the many events and initiatives which the WI offers on a local, group, county and national level. We heard about the activities of our "Strollers", Striders" and Knit and Natter groups. We looked forward to hosting the Dane Valley Group's Bowling Fun Day on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Some of us will be attending the Dane Valley Fun Quiz later in the month and the Autumn Group Meeting in October. We had the opportunity to vote on a selection of photographs to be submitted to CFWI "Summer Fun" Scavenger Hunt. Secretary Liz shared deadlines with members for future events across the County that they may wish to attend. Committee member, Di Malkin, updated us with news of the National Resolution concerning clean water in our rivers for both people and animals. Margaret congratulated Di on her successful application to join the team involved with the selection, shortlisting and promotion of resolutions for next year's National AGM.

We received a lot of positive feedback concerning our Tree celebration

event which had taken place in August when Russell Watson had unveiled our commemorative plaque and joined us for a summer buffet in the Village Hall. Members were delighted that he had so willingly posed for photos with them and also that he had finished the afternoon by inviting us to join him in the singing of Jerusalem. It was generally agreed that this particular afternoon had provided some fabulous memories for us all and for our official guests.

Our speaker for the evening was Anthony Norman from Conquest Plant Nurseries at Bosley near Macclesfield. He gave us a very informative talk about plants which would provide a variety of colour, texture and interest in our gardens throughout the Autumn and onwards into the winter months. The competition for a plant related recycling idea was won by Linda Brayford with an impressive and imaginative boat planter made from a plastic bottle.

Since our monthly meeting we have hosted the Bowling Fun Day. This was a very happy event, and we were delighted when the winning pair were our own member, Joan Proctor, and Swettenham member Marilyn Lloyd. It was an enjoyable day when it was good to welcome bowling members from local institutes. Many thanks must go to our non-bowling members who came along to support the team. The bonus was that some of them came bearing cake, and all of them came prepared to help us make the day run smoothly. It was also fabulous to have both Carole Goodwin and Brenda Sutton there cheering us on. Both have missed some of our fixtures this year because of health issues. Along with Anita, our Captain, they have given the newer team members their guidance and support throughout a difficult season.

We celebrated 105 years of WI in Britain with an Afternoon Tea at Congleton Golf Club, two days prior to the actual anniversary which was on 16th September. It was a lovely afternoon, shared with good company and involving delicious food. What more could one ask?

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We are always happy to welcome prospective members to our meetings. If you would like to come along to see the sort of things we do, please contact either Liz on 07766738004, Kate on [07875691170](tel:07875691170) or Margaret on [07581095418](tel:07581095418) so we can make arrangements for someone to welcome you.

Photo 1 Celebrating WI Day 108 years of WI in Britain. Catherine Pedley, Margaret Pearson, Joan Proctor, Margaret Pennington, Gwen Williams and Liz Edmunds enjoy afternoon tea at Congleton Golf Club.

Photo 2

Linda Brayford and Kate Naylor in charge of our sales table

Photo 3

Winners of our Dane Valley Bowls Fun Day Marilyn Lloyd from Swettenham and Joan Proctor from Astbury proudly receive the shield from Margaret Pearson.



17 four letter words, 7 five letter words, 2 six letter words and 1 seven letter word using only the letters in the large squares. (There may be more than 1 solution) Answer

[illegible]

# A

Greetings from St Mary's.

It has been another busy year for St Mary's, as we continue to work towards making the church more open and accessible. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our thoughts so far - there may now appear to be a hiatus but rest assured that work is continuing behind the scenes. We have overwhelming support to make adaptations which will make the church building more suitable for the 21st century. There are a lot of statutory bodies to consult and it will take a long time!

Despite the financial pressures which are being experienced by everyone, St Mary's is in a relatively healthy position. This is in no small part due to significant help with fundraising by friends and neighbours in the village. Our church building is nationally important but our small community doesn't get any outside help in keeping it open -so we do need local support. If you want to help, but are perhaps not able to come to church on Sundays, would you be able to consider a regular gift by standing order to our friends scheme? If you need details of this you can email me at [revd.naylor@gmail.com](mailto:revd.naylor@gmail.com), or our administrator at [admin@astburychurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@astburychurch.org.uk).

Our glorious bells have been ringing out over the countryside once more, and we look forward to them heralding all our usual Autumn and Winter activities. Our Remembrance Sunday service will begin at 10.45am on 12 November, and the Advent season begins with a themed evening service on 3rd December. There are all the usual Christmas services from 9 lessons and carols, the Live Nativity and Crib service as well as Midnight Mass. Keep an eye on our noticeboard!

Revd Anne-Marie Naylor, Rector of St Mary's



## ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR 1914-1918

George METCALF. Sadly this soldier has proved to be difficult to find much information about. I can find a George born in Leek in 1895/96 to Charles Metcalf (born Astbury) and Lucy his wife. On the 1901 and 1911 censuses they are living in Leek, where Charles is a baker. There seem to be no surviving military records at present and I have not been able to find him on the 1921 census either.

George MINSHULL. Again, this soldier has been difficult. There is a military record for George Minshull, Cheshire Regiment, Soldier No. 291488 awarded the War and Victory medals, but no other information. The best candidate I can find is a George Minshull born 1893 to James Henry and Charlotte Minshull of Eaton Bank, Congleton, who appears on the 1901 and 1911 censuses in Eaton Bank, and in 1921 and 1939 in Canal Street. Hopefully more information may become available in the future.

**John MOORES.** The best candidate for this soldier is a John William Moores, born 1897 (a pit boy) living with his parents in Fence Lane, Astbury. He is still there in 1921. By 1939, married and with children, he is living in Great Moreton Terrace, Ackers Crossing. Another possible candidate could be a John Moores born 1890, living in Astbury Street on the 1911 census, a jobbing gardener, with parents Frederick and Sarah Jane. By 1921 he has moved to Royle St. having married and had children.



Do you know anything about any of these three soldiers? If so, please contact us before this information is lost to time! Thank you.

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

**EDWARD "TEDDY" DODD** (Edward was born at Bank Farm, Astbury, 17th August 1898 son of Annie Dodd. )



(this is abridged from various newspaper articles)

Mr. Edward Dodd (right) late of Newbold Astbury, Cheshire, who was personally invited by the late King George VI to become his head gamekeeper, was one of the estate employees who last weekend stood guard over the Royal coffin before the altar of the village church at Sandringham.

53 year old Mr. Dodd, born and bred in Astbury was a proud servant of the late King since he ascended the throne in 1936, first as keeper, then as kennelman, and finally as head of Sandringham ,was one of those most shocked by the news of the King's death. For he had on many occasions had the privilege of close personal contact with King George, as well as other members of the Royal Family. MR Dodd, who is a cousin of Mrs. T C Gray of Bank Farm, Astbury was born at the farm when it was kept by his late grandfather, Mr. Job Dodd- from whom Dodd's Lane , in which the farmhouse stands, took its name. His parents died while he was young. He attended Astbury School and for a short time afterwards worked under Mr. E Ratcliffe, keeper of the Newbold shoot.

At Sandringham, where he lives with his wife at "The Pheasantries"- like the late King he married a Scots girl- he has a staff of six or eight keepers. His son and daughter were married in a double wedding ceremony in the same church where he guarded his late master.

One particular source of pride for Mr. Dodd is that his grandchild was the first after the late King to be born at York House, Sandringham, which is now converted into flats.

#### 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 )