

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETO

PARISHES NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2023

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

email: clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk

We wish you a Merry Christmas

Daffodil Planting.

Thanks to the generosity of The William Dean Trust and DJM Nursery on Magpie Bank, Astbury, about £300.00 worth of daffodils were planted on the village green on Saturday 18th. October by a willing band of councillors and parishioners. Luckily the holes had been pre dug, again thanks to the generosity of Sibelco (and Nicola Cole in particular) and their handyman John Slack who dug hundreds of holes to speed up the job! This will hopefully fill up the less floriferous parts around the village green. On Wednesday 1st. November a team from Astbury School planted native wild daffodils and spread wild flower seeds on the common Land at Brownlow Heath. (unfortunately no children were available to help on this occasion)



1, 2,3 Parishioners and councillors on the green. 4. Astbury School team and chair of the Parish Council at Brownlow Heath.

News from Astbury School

Children from school had the opportunity to join Astbury Women's Fellowship and hear a talk from Peter Durnall - an award winning national photographer. They saw amazing footage of eggs hatching and enjoyed other photographs from the natural world.

Children in Class Jonah had a visit from Featheryfolk at Glebe farm and had the amazing experience of an owl flying overhead. The children had learnt the story of Owl Babies and learnt many wonderful facts about owls.

Knowsley Safari Park was a great trip for children in Class Noah. The children learnt lots of amazing facts about the animals: Meerkats stand on their tails to look for food and predators, the hog sniffs the ground to find bugs to eat, giraffe poo is the size of Maltersers, a group of meerkats is called a mob.

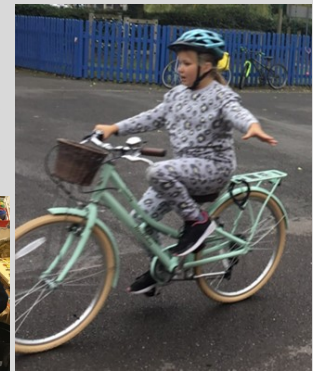
Down Syndrome Cheshire are visiting school and working with a group of children in Class Mary exploring rhythm and sound. Lots of fun and smiles!

Children in Class Jacob brought their bikes to school and learnt key skills of cycling safety. Bikeability level one was learnt on the playground, whilst the next level students made their way to Padgbury Lane and practised on the estate roads.

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

Christmas at Astbury School

Friday 1st December 3:30 - 5pm Christmas Fair in school - all welcome.





LIVE NATIVITY

2023

Meet at Glebe Farm, 6pm ready to set off at 6.30
Entry by pre-booked ticket only

Monday
18th December



Tuesday
19th December



Adult - £6
Under 16 - £3
Family 2+2 - £15

Available online Small booking fees apply
Scan QR codes here or visit astburychurch.org.uk



*to welcome
the start of a
new church year
and begin a time of
pre-Christmas reflection*



6.30pm
Sunday 3rd December

ASTBURY LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Special visitors came to the October meeting-the top class of Astbury School came to watch Peter Durnall's film show " Getting Closer to Nature."

In his first film, "Birds and Wildlife in the Spring" we all saw water birds at Knypersley Pool, Biddulph which included swans feeding cygnets, sparrow, peregrine falcons and a spotted woodpecker feeding its young through a hole in a tree, and buzzards and kestrels.

The second film showed a comeback of barn owls. Their white faces have been disappearing from the countryside, but Peter with some neighbours had installed owl boxes and food stations, and were rewarded with their return.







CAROL WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS

Sun 17th December	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Mon 18th December	6.00 for 6.30pm	Astbury Live Nativity
Tues 19th December	6.00 for 6.30pm	Astbury Live Nativity
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Christmas



Booking is essential for Live Nativity - buy tickets online
Use the QR code here for the booking links on our website
For more details about which is the right service for you and your family, see astburychurch.org.uk/ and [@StMarysAstbury](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysAstbury)

The last film was particularly for the children. It showed 12 year old Ellie making her garden attractive to birds by erecting food stations, and leaving some of it to grow wild.

Our pewtop stall in the church raised £108.00 there were many different stall in the church- jewellery, quilting, and many more. Our stall had a Harvest Theme with home made bread, lemon cheese, apple tarts and many other items. We thank Brenda Cook, who along with Joan Taylor do such an amazing job of arranging church flowers, and the church always looks stunning. We had our cup of tea and chat and drew the raffle.

Christmas lunch will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th. December at 12.30. pm. The Rector will lead us in a communion service in the hall followed by a buffet lunch, which members will provide, each bringing a plate of food- which is always varied and delicious- we have never yet had all sponge cakes!

Afterwards, Susan Walker will play to us, including some Christmas music which we look forward to.

Our Winter luncheon will take place at The Legs of Man on Wednesday 17th. January 2024, meeting at 12.15pm, which is always an enjoyable occasion. If you would like to know more about The Fellowship, please contact Carole on 01260 263323

Astbury WI November 2023

On 1st November Astbury WI met for its 83rd Annual General Meeting. The Village Hall looked inviting with tables set for a Pie and Pea Supper. The bunting and banners decorated the hall and the President, Margaret Pearson welcomed members along with Ann Beckett, our local WI adviser, who had been invited to preside over the election of our President for the following year.

We began with the traditional singing of Jerusalem. It had to be unaccompanied since the piano seemed to have mysteriously lost its voice. Our delicious cake, which had been made and iced by Vice President Kate Naylor, was cut and the celebration of our 83rd Birthday began.

Everyone sat down to enjoy the supper which had been cooked for us by Andrea at Beech Tree Catering. The pie, plus accompaniments, were hot and delicious, followed by a choice of three sumptuous sweets.

After supper the normal business of the November meeting was conducted. Members were reminded of items of correspondence which had been sent out via email for them to peruse. Catherine Pedley reminded us about the Dane Valley Group Carol Service which this year will take place at Saint Luke's Church Goostrey on Sunday 10th December. Margaret reminded everyone to check details of forthcoming events on the Dates for your Diary board. There they would find details of our Christmas Party and all the forthcoming group dates. The Knit and Natter group had been very busy creating poppy toppers for three postboxes. (see pictures below) The one at The Horseshoe was already in place, the one at Astbury Church had been put on earlier in the day and by Friday the third one would appear on Brownlow Heath Lane.

The bowling cup for our team Round Robin Competition was presented to Margaret Pennington and the Doubles Cup was presented to Margaret Pennington and Joan Proctor. Margaret Pearson congratulated the winners and hoped that our bowlers would build on their successes in 2024. Certificates were presented to Carole Goodwin in recognition of 60 years as a member at Astbury and Christine Whittaker who had reached her 10 year milestone. There was also a certificate for Kath Wainwright, who was unable to be present, in recognition of her 50 years in Astbury WI.

Secretary Liz reminded members of the arrangements for our Christmas Party at Alexandra Court on 28th November.

Next followed the business of the AGM. The minutes of the 82nd Meeting were read and signed as a correct record. Our Treasurer, Lisa Spencer, presented our financial statement and members were happy that, once again, she had kept our finances in a healthy state.

Liz shared the Committee's annual report, looking back on a happy and successful year, when our tree planting celebration had finally come to fruition and had been the summer highlight of another very positive year at Astbury.

The presence of Russell Watson, who not only unveiled the plaque, but led us in the singing of Jerusalem and posed for photos with several delighted ladies, had been the icing on the cake of that particular event. It had also opened doors for our President Margaret to be interviewed by both Congleton Radio and Churnet Sound to promote the WI in general and Astbury in particular. We had joined in the Campaign for Clean Rivers and the poem, written by our President, has been published in the most recent edition of Cheshire News. Liz's report certainly reflected a busy, social calendar for the past twelve months. In her President's Address Margaret paid tribute to the Committee who had worked so hard to plan and deliver a lively program of events and activities throughout the year. She particularly wanted to thank the retiring members of the Committee. These included Kath Wainwright, Margaret Hollinshead and Di Malkin, who were each given a plant on behalf of their fellow members as a gesture of thanks for all their various contributions. Margaret also presented plants on her own behalf to say thank you to Secretary Liz, Treasurer Lisa, and Vice President Kate, for all their enthusiasm help and support over the past twelve months. Ann Beckett then took over and introduced the new 2024 committee. She presided over the election of our President for next year. Margaret was re-elected and the meeting ended with the National Anthem.

Our December Meeting will be on Wednesday 6th December when our speaker will be Dawn Weeks from Little Moreton Hall who will tell us about Christmas customs throughout the years which have affected life through the ages at Little Moreton Hall. Our competition will be for a miniature Christmas cake.

Visitors are always welcome our meetings. If you would like to come along or need further information, please contact Margaret on 07581 095418, Liz on 07766 738004 or Kate on 07875 691170. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have and to arrange for a member to "meet and greet" you on the night.



VILLAGE GREEN



THE HORSESHOE



BROWNLOW HEATH LANE

News in Brief:

The Parish Council were pleased to welcome Tracey Potts to the Team, who has filled a councilor vacancy for Newbold Astbury.

Sadly the Diamond Jubilee Tree at Ackers Crossing has not survived the extremes of weather this year and the parish Council are sourcing a replacement tree. Our clerk has taken delivery of the Coronation Bench which is to be situated at Ackers Crossing.

ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR 1914-1918

Arthur PAINTER/ Arthur PAINTER/Harry PAINTER/ Thomas PAINTER

These soldiers all appear to be from the same patriotic family. Arthur Painter the father and three of his sons. I think that they are also the same family as one of the soldiers, George William Painter who is listed on the War Memorial, who died in 1919. and was mentioned in a newsletter a few years ago.

On the 1891 Census, the family are living at The Timberyard, Brownlow, just up from the Wesleyan Chapel on Wall Hill Lane. The family consists of Arthur, 29, married, farm labourer, Harietta, wife 31, Arthur 8, William 5, Harry 4, Thomas 1. All the children born in Astbury. By the time of the 1911 census, the family are living on Wall Hill Lane (it may be the same address, but it's not clear) Arthur 39, roadman Congleton Rural District Council, Harietta 41, George William 15, blacksmith's apprentice, Thomas 11, schoolboy, Alfred 5, Grace 1. Harry is a cowman at Love Lane Farm, Betchton and Arthur 18 a waggoner at Shannock Farm, Somerford Booths. There are at present, no surviving Military Records, so sadly, I can't expand on their details.

By 1921, George William, has sadly died of wounds, Arthur 49 (father) is now living at Spen Green, Smallwood, with wife Harietta, Arthur 28, unmarried, rat catcher, Thomas 21, unmarried, joiner and the rest of Arthur and Harietta's children. Harry is married and living with in-laws in Swan Street, Congleton. He is a motor driver for a milk company.

Arthur senior sadly passed away in 1932 in Smallwood.

On the 1939 register, Arthur junior is living in Brownlow, an official rat catcher, married with a family. He sadly passed away in Brownlow in 1980. Harry is a motor driver, married and living with his family in Nelson Street, Congleton. His sad demise was in 1980. Thomas Painter, was a joiner, married living with family in Sandbach. He sadly passed away in 1982.

If you have any details of any of the brave men could you please contact us. Thank you.

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)

.....*and a Happy New Year!*