



# MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024

## ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING 2024

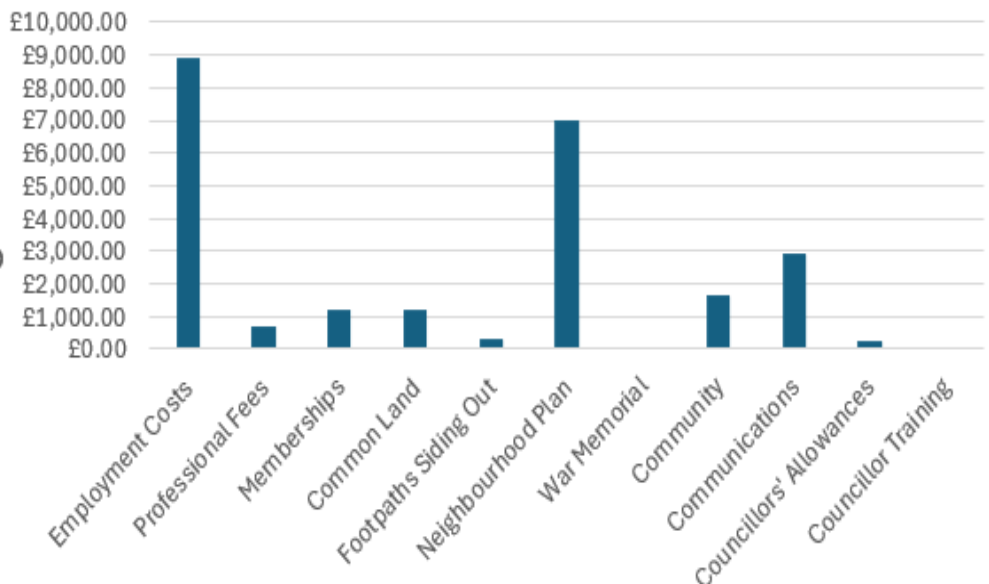
Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council will hold its Annual Parishes Meeting on Wednesday 10th. April 2024 at 7.30 pm. in Astbury Village Hall.

Cheese and Wine will be provided

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the Annual Parishes Meeting on Wednesday 12th. April 2023
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chair's report
5. Questions from the public
6. PRESENTATION by John Carter on locality

## Parish Accounts 2023-2024

Employment Costs	£8,886.50
Professional Fees	£689.00
Memberships	£1,238.11
Common Land	£1,224.00
Footpaths Siding Out	£300.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£6,996.28
War Memorial	£0.00
Community	£1,657.11
Communications	£2,930.47
Councillors' Allowances	£250.00
Councillor Training	£50.00



## ASTBURY MAY DAY

SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024  
11AM-5PM  
GLEBE FARM

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN AND  
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

BBQ and Bar  
Dog Show  
Maypole Dancing  
Handmade Gifts  
Live Entertainment  
Inflatables and much  
more to enjoy!

**Astbury May Day Committee**

## Chair's Report 2023

The Parish Council (PC) held 11 meetings in the last 12 months, the majority being attended by our Ward Councillor, Liz Wardlaw. Both Liz and Ward CLLR Patrick Redstone continue to support the PC in various matters typically with highways and planning matters. Thanks to both of them.

A number of parishioners have attended PC meetings, to speak in the public session regarding matters on the agenda including planning and highways. Parishioners also contact us to report issues to us including accidents, potholes and fly tipping which appears to have increased following the closure of Congleton Tip. Residents can report these incidents on the Cheshire East Website under "Fix My Street."

The PC are involved in a number of long term projects including the War Memorial in the churchyard. The aim is to add missing soldier's names to the existing memorial. Each soldier has to be researched fully and the evidence provided to the church. We will continue to update you on progress in the newsletters.

Daffodil planting in October centred around the village green and grass bank where gaps had been identified. The William Dean Trust and Murrays Nursery on Magpie Bank provided bulbs, and Sibelco who operate the sand quarry at Wall Hill lent their handyman, John Slack to dig the holes to help with the planting. Councillors were joined by a number of parishioners to help with the planting. I'm sure you'll agree that the daffodils are looking splendid this year!

Astbury school were involved at the Common Land in Brownlow last autumn, assisting with planting native daffodils and sowing wild flower seeds. The native trees are establishing well but the hedge will need some replacement whips. Nettles continue to be a problem and we are looking at an ongoing maintenance plan.

Unfortunately the Diamond Jubilee/Commemoration oak tree at Acker's Crossing died, but a replacement oak has now been planted and hopefully this will thrive. A concrete pad has been laid near to the phone box and a commemorative oak bench has been purchased. Fixing the bench has been delayed due to adverse weather conditions.

Following the fire at Acker's Crossing phone box, which housed the defibrillator, the electricity supply has been made safe, pending reconnection and we have obtained costings to acquire a refurbished phone kiosk of the same design. We are still liaising with the Insurance company and are hopeful that we will have some news soon.

The PC set up a working group to look at traffic matters in the parishes. They have been dealing mainly with Wall Hill Lane, Peel Lane and the village green/A34.

All households should have received a copy of The Neighbourhood Plan. Comments were invited from parishioners and statutory consultees. Comments received are being reviewed by the plan team assisted by our planning consultant.

As mentioned in recent newsletters we have been working on a new parish website using the gov.uk recommended format and councillors are currently moving to new email addresses. The website has a fresh modern look and should be easier to navigate. Do take a look!

The Newsletter is distributed 4 times a year and is well received. Please contact us if you have any items of interest you think we could include, and we will do our best to incorporate them. -details on the website/newsletters.

**We will be holding our Annual Parishes meeting on Wednesday 10th. April at 7.30 in the village hall,** preceded by a shortened April PC meeting. Our speaker for the evening will be retired architect and former chair of the PC, John Carter, talking about local subjects. Cheese, wine and soft drinks will be served on the night and we hope to meet as many of you as possible. This is your opportunity to raise any issues or pose questions which we will endeavour to answer either on the night or afterwards.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Judith Critchlow* (Chair NAcM PC)

At the February meeting our Rector told us about her pilgrimage to Jerusalem, which was an amazing experience, visiting the Holy Places, even swimming in the Dead Sea, although you didn't swim, you bobbed about! She had been saddened to feel and see at first hand the conflicts there— they had been held up at many border crossings just to see the various buildings.



On 26th. February, a former member Marie Lycett celebrated her 107th birthday! She is being cared for at Twyford House in Alsager and they arranged a wonderful party for her. Older members will remember Marie running her shop at "Sunnyside" on Chelford Road, or cycling miles with her husband, or working in the garden she loved; some will remember attending her craft classes— an amazing lady!

There are new things going on in the church and in members homes. On Monday night there is a Bible study group, on Thursday night we meet and think about "Discipleship" At the moment we watching the amazing film of the life of Christ- "The Chosen" During Lent we are meeting in member's homes on Monday afternoons at 2pm. This is a time for relaxation and discussion. You would be welcome at any of these.

We supported the World Day of Prayer service at St. Peter's. A very moving service, appropriately written by the Christian women of Palestine. It was well attended and there was much discussion over cups of tea afterwards!

Beyond, we look forward to Astbury May Day on the 18th. May. We shall have a stall and look forward to seeing you. Before then, if you would like to know more about any of the groups, or to come to a fellowship meeting (3rd. Wednesday of every month in Astbury Village Hall at 1.30 pm.) please contact Carole on 07484525829



Members who were looking forward to hearing a talk about Therapy Dogs may have been a little disappointed when our speaker was not able to join us. However the smiles in the

wonderful selection of Kate Naylor's photos on our Facebook page tell their own story.

After a warm welcome from our President, birthday wishes were extended to three members. Margaret thanked Margaret Pennington who had provided a pretty plant for the President's table and Cath Cunliffe for birthday buttonholes. There was a very well supported sales table to which members had contributed many hand-made items. Manned by Linda Brayford it was a source of some excellent revenue for our funds.

The next Striders' walk is in the planning stage and Rhoda hopes to lead us down The Biddulph Valley Way soon. The Strollers meet each Monday, prior to our lunchtime Knit and Natter sessions at The Horseshoe. The only exception to that is when changing our post-box displays takes precedence. Members can find the arrangements in our WhatsApp group. Our next toppers will have an Easter theme. We are looking forward to taking an active part in the May Day on Saturday 18th May. We shall be busy, in the refreshment marquee.

Our Competition was for a dog in any medium and had attracted a variety of fascinating entries. Members were invited to tell us the story behind their entries. As you might expect their stories were just as varied as their entries. Some held special memories for their owners which we were privileged to share. The evening's competition was won by Christine Manley with Carol Steer in second place.

Carol Steer was the clear winner of the Competition Cup for 2023/24—, a deserving winner who makes the effort to enter each month. Jane Tarrant was second with Linda Brayford in third place.

As I write, the bench on the green has been cleaned, but not yet oiled, thanks to Gwen and Rhoda for joining me last week. The bowlers are looking forward to the start of the season just after Easter. It will be good to welcome a couple of new members who plan to join us this year.

Those who attended our Winter Lunch at The Orange Tree at the end of last month agreed that they had thoroughly enjoyed good food, and good company. Many of us look forward to the Spring Lunch next month at the refurbished Castle Inn.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 3rd April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when our speaker will be Tom King whose talk will be, "The Water Quality and Wildlife of Our Inland Waterways."

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. If you would like to come along or need further information, please contact Margaret on 07581095418, Liz on 07766738004, or Kate on 07875691170. 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.

#### News from Astbury School

Children at Astbury School were delighted to receive a visit from Bishop Mark from Chester Cathedral. He visited each classroom and spent time answering the very curious questions asked by the children! In Class Mary, he was shown some of the Lent reflection resources.

A firm favourite of many at Astbury is World Book Day. Families enjoyed some reading time together, children and staff dressed as book characters and spent the day immersed in reading. Can you identify the Mr Men and Little Miss on the staff photograph?

In their learning about forces, children in Class Jacob were exploring air resistance and gravity through a parachute investigation. During Science Week, Class Noah investigated thrust as they made rockets powered by their own breath.

Many special ladies were able to join us for Mother's Day lunch prepared by Alison, our cook and her lunchtime team. Visitors received small gift of a card to thank our mums for helping us to grow. The occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by our visitors.

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



## ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR

**Charles DEAN:** Charles *Wilson* Dean was the second child of Charles and Gertrude Ann Dean (nee Wilson) who had married at Astbury Church in 1894. He was born in Astbury on 6th. October 1897 and baptised at Wellington, Shropshire on 17/8/1898. A couple of years later on the 1901 census, the family, including also a daughter Gertrude aged 6 are living and farming at Reeves farm, Brownlow. By the time of the 1911 census, his father has died and his widowed mother and he have moved a few yards up the road and are staying with his Uncle, Joseph Dean at Charity Farm, where he is 14 and still a schoolboy. The surviving military records for Charles are quite badly burned (about 70% were destroyed in a fire and by water damage, caused initially by an incendiary bomb in September 1940 at the War Office store in London) but from them we can see that he signed up at Congleton on 12th November 1915, he joined the Royal Engineers as a sapper (army No. 140820) he was a skilled fitter aged 19 years and 1 month. (actually a fib, he was 18 and 1 month!) His next of kin was his mother, residing at The Bear's Head Hotel, Brereton cum Smethwick. That is all I can make out. After the War, in 1921 he is back living at The Bear's Head, with his mother and aunt. In 1925 he married Gwendoline Baskerville at Brereton church. So far he has eluded me after 1925 until his death was registered in Winchester, Hampshire in 1975..

**Thomas DEAN:** Thomas (the illegitimate son of Lizzie Dean) was born in Burslem on 23/4/1893 and baptised at St. Paul's in Burslem on 4/6/1893. By 1911 he is aged 17 living at Dairy Brook farm, Astbury, (Hannah Dean 70, farmer, widow and William Dean 48, her son also reside there, so maybe he is a relation?) a farm waggoner. He attested on 14/3/1916, he's 22 years 10 months, a farm labourer living at Wall Hill Lane, Brownlow. He was 4 feet 10½ tall and his next of kin was his uncle, Thomas Day, of Wall Hill Lane. He was assigned to the Royal Veterinary Corps, soldier No: 15305. Thankfully, he survived the war and in 1921 was living (as an adopted son) with Thomas Day as a farm waggoner, at Astbury Marsh. He married Hannah Bayley at Kinsey Street Methodist Church in 1927 and by 1939 they were living in Swan Street, Congleton. I think he passed away in 1957 in the Congleton area.

**Thomas FORD:** This is a difficult one. The only likely candidate is a Thomas born in Brereton in 1895 to Thomas and Sarah Ann Ford, living in 1901 at Bagmere Bank Farm, Brereton cum Smethwick. By 1911 he has moved to Winsford and is a farm labourer. After the war in 1921 he is living back at home, farming with his parents at Loachbrook, Somerford Booths. He married Ada Vernon at Swettenham in 1924 and in 1939 they are dairy farmers in Woodhouse Farm, Holmes Chapel. There appear to be no surviving military records, so I can't be sure if this is the same person.

**John HALL:** John *Ralph* HALL was born in Fremington North Yorkshire in 1884. On the 1911 census he is working as a butler for the Shakerley family at Somerford Hall. He signed up on 2/12/1915 and was assigned to the Royal Army Medical Corps, where he rose to be a lance corporal No:357513, and eventually was discharged from the army on 22/7/1919 with a bad chest and injury to a finger. He married Louisa Smith at Mickleover, Derbyshire on 26/2/1916. After his discharge, he is found back at Somerford Hall on the 1921 census working for the Shakerley's again. The last item I can find for John and Louisa, is in the 1926 electoral registers for Somerford, where they are living on Congleton Road. So far I haven't managed to find anything for them after this date.

Can anybody help? Again, please contact us if you have any information.

### 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) Tracey Potts 07850 329 485 (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.**