

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a

Safe and Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!



Hello and welcome to our last Newsletter of the Year!

Hopefully you will have noticed that the Parish Council have been very busy on your behalf over the last year or so.

General Update

Village Green- we now have a new paved area around the seat on the green. Many thanks to the William Dean Trust for kindly agreeing to pay for this. Around 1000 new daffodil bulbs were planted around the village green, made possible by a donation last year. A willing band of volunteers made up of Parish Councillors, Ward Councillors, family and friends spent a Saturday morning in October merrily digging holes and filling them with daffodil bulbs. A resident of the Village Green kindly supplied us with refreshments- it was very much appreciated! Also more daffodil bulbs have been purchased for planting around the Parish Boundary signs, and along the road junctions along the A34 at Chance Hall Lane, Brownlow Heath Lane and Child's Lane.

You may have noticed that we now have 4 new aluminium weatherproof Noticeboards around the 2 Parishes, to replace the ageing, leaking wooden ones! No more soggy notices and rusty drawing pins or doors tied together with string (by a kind person at Ackers Crossing!) These should hopefully have a lifespan of Around 30 years! Parish Boundary signs were erected at the boundaries along the A34. The Astbury sign in the village at Stye Heath has also been repaired!

The redundant Phone Kiosk at Ackers Crossing was purchased by the Council for £1.00. It has been repainted- and very smart it looks too. Several ideas have been put forward for its use. A decision will be made shortly as to how this will be utilised. Watch this space!

The Information board on the Church wall near to the letterbox has been repaired by a member of the Parish Council. The 1898 Milepost on Magpie Bank has also been repainted by a Parish Councillor.

Update - Traffic & Highways!

We know that the busy (and often dangerous) roads around the parish are a real concern to residents - and we share your worries - so we wanted to update you on our efforts to date...

Our survey regarding traffic through Astbury itself and the entry / exit points around the village green was comprehensive and was passed to Cheshire East Highways Dept. some time ago. Suggestions from residents included a 'chicane' / pinch point by the church steps as well as a number of ideas regarding re-directing traffic on & off the A34 and modifying the shape & signage of these points. We await a 'site visit' from an officer and direct discussions.

The installation of traffic lights at the railway bridge at the junction of Peel Lane, Moss Road & The Flash were as a result of our repeatedly reporting accident damage to the bridge itself from busy (fast) traffic - there was a very (very) real danger of stonework from the bridge falling onto the track after one of the regular collisions. We constantly monitor this area and welcome further feedback which we can pass on.

Speed restrictions (or rather, the lack of them!) along the A34 remain a real concern and have been on a review list with CE Highways for some time. We've repeatedly asked for the painted 'hatchings' by the garden centre entrance & other turning points to be made into physical islands to restrict overtaking, along with an overall reduction in speed limits : CE Highways say there is a funding issue and disagree with the speed review - they think this is a 'Police Enforcement' issue. We have asked for a full list of logged accidents along this dangerous stretch of road (we think the statistics speak for themselves) and then a face-to-face site visit. We won't give up on this one!

The 40mph speed limit along Peel Lane and Moss Road was instigated by the Parish Council also. This was supported by our Ward Councillors.

If you have any comments or observations about these matters, feel free to contact us or attend one of our meetings - you'll be very welcome.

Update - Neighbourhood Plan

Look out for your copy of the Neighbourhood Plan! It should be dropping through your letterboxes shortly- or you may already have had it! After nearly 5 years of hard work, the Neighbourhood Plan Team has produced the Document that you will be asked to support very soon. More details with the Pack that you receive. If you haven't received your copy by the end of December or you know of anyone else who has not received their copy or a copy of this Newsletter, please let the Parish Clerk know so that we can add you to our distribution list.

A Chance to get involved with a worthwhile project.

The Parish Council has been contacted by Minerva Arts regarding a project that they are planning to put together for next Halloween. The following article gives an insight into the project and we are hoping that this will generate a lot of interest and enthusiasm across the Parishes. We will keep you posted.



'Come Souling with Minerva

Arts charity Minerva Arts is launching a new project in 2017 exploring the traditional 'Souling' plays that were performed across Cheshire from the medieval times up to the 20th Century. We are looking for participants to come and join us on a journey of discovery to find out all about the plays themselves, how they were performed and re-stage them on Halloween when they would have traditionally been performed.

Arts' launching a new project in 2017 exploring the traditional 'Souling' plays that were performed across Cheshire from the medieval times up to the 20th Century. We are looking for participants to come and join us on a journey of discovery to find out all about the plays themselves, how they were performed and re-stage them on Halloween when they would have traditionally been performed.

By taking part in this project you will:

- *Learn skills in research, using archives and collecting oral history
- *Work with a professional writer to create your own scene, poem or song
- *Work with a professional director to re-stage the play

At the moment, we are looking for expressions of interest from anyone who might want to get involved in all or some of this process. You might be an individual, you may work in a school and want to explore getting your children involved or you may be connected to a local group such as Scouts, Guides or a local history group. Whoever you are, we want to hear from you!

Please get in touch to register your interest by emailing steph@minervaarts.com

Live Nativity 2016

Monday 19th. and Tuesday 20th. December.

Meet at 6.30 at the main entrance to the church, then onto The Egerton Arms, onwards to the Village Hall, then down Glebe Farm Drive to the Barn where there will be carols, prayers, and refreshments including mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies.

Tickets: £5.00 adults/£2.50 children/£12.00 Family (2adults & 3 children)

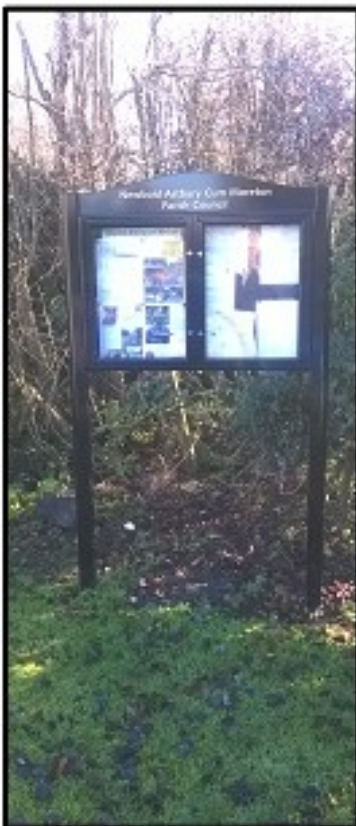
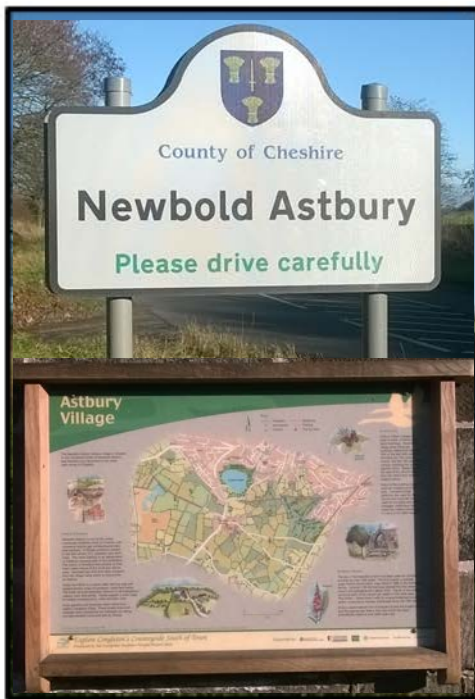
Price includes refreshments. Please wear warm clothing, sensible footwear and bring a torch!

Tickets are limited so advance booking is recommended.

Tickets available from Glebe Farm Shop.

Tel: 01260 273916

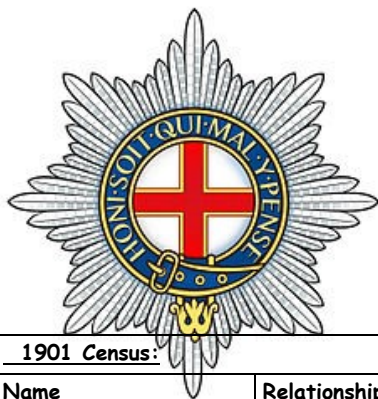
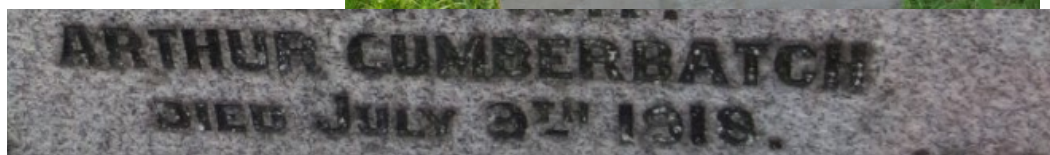




Continuing the remembrance of the men who laid down their lives for their country and whose names are on the War Memorial in Astbury Churchyard.

Sadly, Arthur Cumberbatch is the sixth name on the memorial. He was the son of Charles and Sarah Hannah Cumberbatch of Child's Lane, Brownlow. He was baptised in Astbury church on 23rd. August 1891 by Alfred Corbett, the Rector. On the 1901 census he is living at home with his parents on Child's Lane (next house incidentally to Harold Clarke, remembered in the last Newsletter) On the 1911 census he is actually recorded twice! He is shown as living at home with all the family in the 1901 census, Number 5 now called Walter, and younger siblings Lily and Alfred. He is also recorded as living at Wall Hill Farm with the Tipping family. He is shown as head waggoner on the farm. He left a wife Hannah Maria (nee Minshull) whom he married by civil marriage in Macclesfield in 1913, and possibly a young son called Arthur born in 1913.

He was a guardsman (private No: 26500) in the Coldstream Guards. He died on the 9th of July 1918 in the Military Hospital in Caterham, Surrey. Thankfully, he does have a known grave, unlike so many unfortunate other young men and women. He was buried in Astbury churchyard on July 13th. 1918 by Rev. E N Dodd of Buglawton.



1901 Census:		Brownlow, Newbold Astbury, Cheshire.			
Name	Relationship	Condition	age	Where born	Occupation
Charles Cumberbatch	head	Married	35	Cheshire. Astbury	General Farm Labourer
Sarah H Cumberbatch	Wife	married	32	Staffordshire. Madeley	
Annie Cumberbatch	Daur		11	Cheshire. Astbury	
Arthur Cumberbatch	Son		9	Cheshire. Astbury	
Charles Cumberbatch	Son		7	Cheshire. Astbury	
Jessie Cumberbatch	Daur		4	Cheshire. Astbury	
No. 5 Cumberbatch	son		3 wks	Cheshire. Astbury	

STOP PRESS:

* There will be carol singing at the Glebe Farm Lights switch on, on Saturday 26th. November at 5.30. Also on the Church Steps and in the village on Tuesday 13th. December at 6.30 onwards. Finally at the Live Nativity on the 19th/20th. December at 6.15 in the Church. If you are interested in joining please contact Sally Drage on either: 07977 903561 or sally@drage.me.uk

* SPRING CLEAN March 2017 March 3rd-5th. Litter picking around the Parishes.

Parish Council Meetings 2017: January 11th./February 8th./March 8th./April 12th./May 10th./June 14th.

Who are we? Please feel free to get in touch!

John Carter (Chairman) 01260 275828

Julie Mason (Clerk) 01260 641854

Roger Sutton 01260 273677

Charles Kennerly 01260 272205

Phill and Judith Critchlow 01260 272174

Peter Cliff 01260 275700

Andy Banks 01260 281194

Nick Barton 01260 280678

Nick Sharman 01260 271374

Rob Lomas 01260 272061

Peter Stanway 01260 273532

Sally-Ann Banks 01260 281964

Nick Plant 07801 545 402

We meet in Astbury Village Hall on the 2nd. Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm. Please feel free to come along.

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. (pcritchlow@talk21.com)