



# ASTBURY and MORETON Parishes Newsletter Christmas 2024

**NEW WEBSITE:** <http://astbury-moreton-pc.gov.uk>

## We wish you a Merry Christmas .....

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 two.

### General Update

This year we have put the names of the soldiers who were killed in the First World War on our poppies and tried to locate the poppies close to the area where the men concerned were living or working. Some examples are: **Harold Hockenull** who was killed in action 27/4/1917 was born in 1892 at Styeh Heath, Astbury and was still living there in 1901. His poppy is on the village sign at Styeh Heath. **John Potts** who died on 27/8/1918 is on a poppy by the canal bridge on Dodd's Lane, where his parents were residing at Canal Bridge Farm (now called Upper Hulme Farm) on the 1911 census. **Hector John Yates** born 1893 and killed in action 26/9/1916 was the son of John and Elizabeth Yates of Brownlow Farm, Moreton. His poppy is at the end of Brook Lane, opposite the farmhouse. **George William Painter** was born at The Timberyard, Brownlow (near the old Methodist Chapel) on 14/5/1895 and died of TB. (due to which he was discharged from the army) On 4/6/1919. His poppy is located at Brownlow Crossroads. There are many other poppies that you may have seen scattered around the two parishes with other soldiers names on. We are hoping next year to have more poppies so we can include each and every one of the missing soldiers who are only just coming to light.

### Did you know?

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month the Armistice took effect, but it was not necessarily the end of the war, only a temporary cessation for 36 days. In practice the Armistice had to be extended three times, and it was only in January 1920 that a permanent peace treaty came into force. Because fighting might restart if peace negotiations broke down, both sides continued firing until the last minute. Despite the fact that commanders on both sides knew as early as 5:30 a.m. that the war would end in less than six hours, many generals ordered their troops to fight on. In fact, out of the war's more than 22 million casualties, a staggering 11,000 were killed or wounded during that last morning of fighting.



The replacement Oak tree at Acker's crossing which was planted to remember the late Queen Elizabeth II is now establishing and appears to be growing well. We are also arranging for a replacement plaque.

We have installed a lovely wooden bench on a solid concrete plinth close to the bus stop and phone box at Acker's Crossing to commemorate the

coronation of King Charles III.



The old telephone kiosk at Acker's Crossing which burnt out some time ago, destroying the Defibrillator in the process, is due to be replaced and a new defibrillator installed in the coming months. On Saturday 26th. October members of the Parish Council planted £200 worth of daffodil bulbs at the end of Child's Lane to help brighten up the area after a long winter. This was made possible by a generous grant from The William Dean Trust for the daffodils and the services of John Slack who dug the holes, courtesy to the generosity of Sibelco at Wall Hill Lane.



Councillor, Rob Lomas, has stepped down after approximately 30 years serving the Parish Council. We'd like to say a big "Thank You" to him for all his hard work over many years. Finally, the Parish Council would like to welcome Sean Harrop onto the team. Sean, who lives in the village, joined the council in September.

# ASTBURY LIVE NATIVITY

16th and 17th  
December 2024

6.00 for 6.30pm  
at Glebe Farm  
CW12 4RQ

## Follow The Star CALM and BRIGHT

Sun 1st December	6.30pm	Advent Carols
Sun 15th December	2.30pm	Somerford Chapel Carols
Mon 16th December	6.00 for 6.30pm	Astbury Live Nativity*
Tues 17th December	6.00 for 6.30pm	Astbury Live Nativity*
Sun 22nd December	6.30pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	Family Christmas

For more details about all our services, see [astburychurch.org.uk](http://astburychurch.org.uk) and [@StMarysAstbury](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysAstbury)  
**\*Booking is essential for Live Nativity - book tickets online**  
 Use the QR code here for the booking links on our website

Entry by pre-booked ticket only

Monday 16th December	Tuesday 17th 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](http://astburychurch.org.uk)

When Astbury WI met for their October Meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, they began on a sad note. After welcoming members, and speakers Emma Kennedy and Mano Manoharan, and the singing of Jerusalem, President Margaret held a minute's silence for Kath Wainwright, who had been a member of our WI for 51 years.

Kath will be greatly missed by all sorts of organisations around the town, especially the WI. Kath was a fellow committee member for around 20 years. She was a fantastic, well-informed Vice President and I benefited from her vast experience. Kath represented us at Astbury on numerous occasions. She personified the ethos of friendship that our WI stands for.

I was privileged to know her as a friend, and I shall miss her on that level. I shall also miss her skills as a proofreader. She performed her miracle on the September press report.

She will be sadly missed, and our thoughts today are with Ken, Helen, Sarah and family.

The normal business of the evening followed. Birthday buttonholes were given out to the ladies with October birthdays. Margaret thanked Claire Woodward for her pretty flower arrangement for the President's table and the business continued with Secretary Liz and Treasurer Lisa playing their important roles. We heard from Catherine about the Dane Valley events which included a look back at the Fun Quiz and a look forward to the Autumn Group Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October at Lr. Withington and the Carol Service at Holmes Chapel on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Our own forthcoming events include our regular Stroller's walks and Knit and Natter sessions each Monday, and an Autumn Lunch at The Bleeding Wolf on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Members signed up for a Pea and Pie Supper at our AGM next month. They also paid their deposits for our Christmas Party which will be held at Alexandra Court on the evening of Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Margaret introduced our speakers, Emma and Mano. Emma assisted by Mano led a very informative session on the awareness and avoidance of scams in all their possible forms. It was a very thought provoking session in which members participated. We all learned a great deal and came home with goody bags which contained information included in the talk.

There were two competitions during the evening. Our monthly competition, for an autumn arrangement was won by Linda Brayford, who had created a wonderful leaf bowl with lights and small gourds. Jen Fagan's fabulous purple entry will go forward on our behalf to the Autumn Group Meeting. The meeting closed with a raffle and the National Anthem.

If you would like to come along to a meeting 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.

## Astbury May Day Committee



Whilst the nights draw in and we head into winter, May Day 2024 feels like a distant memory! However, it has taken us until now to tie up all the loose ends and debrief on what was a record breaking year! The sun shone and there was excitement in the air as Glebe Farm once again opened their gates to play host to our Astbury's longest standing tradition! We were entertained by some lovely dancing from our village school children, along with a host of local musicians and groups taking to the stage. There was food and drink a plenty, a dog show, inflatables, games, competitions and stalls in our ever-expanding makers market!

On behalf of the May Day Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, stallholders, children & supporters for their continued support of the event. We are THRILLED to announce that the day raised £8,650 which will be donated to local causes. Those set to benefit include Astbury Primary School, Astbury St Mary's Church, Astbury Mere Trust, Astbury Toddler Group, Astbury Brownies, Astbury Rainbows, Astbury Ladies Fellowship & Astbury WI. We have also decided to make two charitable donations to this year, one being to Bridging The Gap – Mind Matters, a Congleton based charity founded in 2020 who use local therapists and personal trainers to provide respite programs to individuals who are struggling with their mental health. A second donation will be made, via our wonderful WI, to a Motor Neurone Disease charity in support of one of their WI colleagues who has recently been diagnosed.

As a committee, we try to support groups within the locality that benefit all ages of our community, from using the funds to improve the car park at church, to enhancing the IT equipment available to the school, from providing safe communities for people to meet in to ensuring smaller groups can continue – when you support May Day, you make this possible!

We are always looking for extras to join our wonderful committee, if you are keen to do so please pop us a message using [astburymayday@gmail.com](mailto:astburymayday@gmail.com) or via our Social Media feeds. We are a friendly group and very much welcome anyone who has an hour to spare to help keep the tradition alive!

The only thing left to say is.....

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025!**



[astburymayday@gmail.com](mailto:astburymayday@gmail.com)

Maypole Dancing – Games – Crafts – Fairground Rides – Stalls  
Refreshments – BBQ – Bar – Dog Show

## Roll of Honour

An update about the Painter Family mentioned in the article from the Roll of Honour from the December 2023 Newsletter.

### Arthur Painter.

The Painter family have very kindly updated us with some information about various members of the Painter family from the Brownlow area: (Arthur, Arthur (son), Harry and Thomas,) who served during the first World War. They have this lovely certificate for Arthur Painter, born 1893. He joined the Cheshire Police in the Winsford area before joining up and serving in the Royal Navy.

There will be a more informative update in a future Newsletter.



.....and a Happy New Year!

### 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)
Sean Harrop 07900045495 (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.**