



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2025

ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING 2025

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council will hold its Annual Parishes Meeting on Wednesday 9th. April 2024 at 6.30 pm. in Astbury Village Hall. This will be followed by a Parish Council Meeting at 7.30.

Cheese and Wine will be provided



1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the Annual Parishes Meeting on Wednesday 10th. April 2024
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chair's report
5. Questions from the public
6. PRESENTATION by Jeff Cuttell



Our updated Neighbourhood Plan approved

Our updated Neighbourhood Plan was approved ('made' in the jargon), along with our new Design Guidelines and Design Codes, on 17 January 2025.

Since the first version of the Plan was made on 17 August 2017, there have been considerable changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and to the Cheshire East Local Plan. In fact, the initial strategy for the Local Plan had only been approved shortly before our Neighbourhood Plan, and since then many supplementary policy documents have been written.

A small working group of five Parish Councillors and local residents, set up by our Parish Council, started work on the update in late 2021. The working group had the invaluable support of a planning consultant Andrew Thomson.

Our first steps were to engage with our community to identify areas of concern, and to use the results of this engagement to draw up a draft revised Vision and Aims for the Plan: these were put to parish residents in a mail questionnaire in early 2022. We used your responses to produce an initial draft of the updated Plan - followed by many others as we got to grips with the changes to National Planning Policy Framework and emerging policies of the Local Plan.

Eventually, and with the agreement of the Parish Council, we were able to send you a copy of the draft Plan in early 2024 and embark on the first of two consultations required by the neighbourhood planning regulations. This consultation involved numerous other bodies, including neighbouring councils, utility companies and heritage organisations as well as local residents.

After further refining the Plan from the consultation responses, we submitted it to Cheshire East Council who embarked on the second required consultation and then appointed an independent examiner. After yet more revisions to take the second consultation's responses and the examiners comments into account, we were able to produce a final draft that we, Cheshire East Council and the independent examiner were all happy with.

You can read the updated Neighbourhood Plan and the Design Guidelines and Design Codes at <https://astbury-moreton-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan>. This web page also contains links to a Cheshire East web page where you can find other related documents, and to another parish council page that describes in more detail how we updated the Plan.

Nick Sharman
Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group



Although the 2023 Community Governance Review left the size of the Council untouched, there have been a few moves recently so that we are now carrying a vacancy. We would very much like to fill it as soon as possible and we'd encourage anyone who is interested in joining the Council to contact the Clerk - perhaps someone from Ackers Crossing to complement the Astbury representation on the Council?

Local councils come in all shapes and sizes. There is no template to say what we should do and how we should do it. At first, that can be quite daunting; but it is also exciting. While we are not directly responsible for statutory services we do try to work in the interests of the parishes, for example by responding to planning applications, trying to preserve the architectural and historic character of the area while ensuring that new developments meet the identified needs of the parishes and are in keeping with the local environment.

We try to identify and put pressure on Cheshire East Highways to address the seemingly worsening state of our roads, and press Cheshire East Council to maintain and improve its services to the local population. We liaise with neighbouring parishes on matters of mutual interest such as sand quarrying and the Congleton Link Road, and we are in regular contact with the Church and Astbury School, listening to and supporting their pupils and congregations. We've installed a bench at the Ackers Crossing bus stop and planted an oak tree celebrating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. And of course from time to time you might see some Councillors brightening up the verges and Village Green by planting daffodils.



Andrew Bevington, our Reader spoke to the Fellowship at our February meeting.

We are looking forward to the Institution and Induction of our new Rector, the Rev. Heather Carter on Monday the 17th March at 7pm in Astbury church, by Bishop Mark, Lord Bishop of Chester and Revd. Bee Boyd, acting Archdeacon of Macclesfield. You are most welcome to come, -parking on the

field at Glebe Farm, by kind permission of Robert and Lesley Lomas-light refreshments will be served afterwards. Revd Heather had trained as a nurse, and then worked as a missionary in Peru and Uruguay and then returning to this country. She is coming to us from her last parish in Oxford bringing with her a wide experience of different places. Andrew went on to tell us that the Astbury Building Team is pressing on with the plans for a kitchen and toilets inside the church-we look forward to it. We have just started to open the church on Saturdays (midday) for a quiet prayer time, with members there to talk to if wished, with a cup of tea. This has been very well received. We have supported the World Day of Prayer service at the Trinity Methodist church in Wagsgs Street which raised some £255. for the movement to spend on aid.

The Fellowship next meets on Wednesday, 19th March, at 1 30pm in Astbury Village Hall. Kath Reynolds will remind us of the "Swinging Sixties."

There will be light refreshments afterwards, and everyone is very welcome to join us.

**ASTBURY
MAY DAY**

Saturday 17th May 2025

**GLEBE FARM, ASTBURY
CW12 4RQ**

11 AM TILL 5 PM

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Handmade Gifts
- Maypole Dancing
- BBQ + Bar
- Dog Show
- Live Entertainment
- Inflatables
- Plus so much more to enjoy!

For more information follow us on Facebook or Instagram
@Astburymayday

Astbury WI Press Report March 2025

When members met for their March Meeting on Wednesday 5th March, they were entertained and educated about all things chocolate by Oliver Dunn, otherwise known as Oli the Choc.

The meeting began traditionally with the singing of Jerusalem. The President, Margaret Pearson welcomed everyone warmly and conducted the business of the evening, ably assisted by Kate Naylor (Assistant Secretary) and Annette Kanauros (Treasurer). Kate was among the ladies who received a birthday buttonhole. She had celebrated her special birthday two days previously.

Annette gave members an update on our finances, and Kate shared news of upcoming events which included an NSPCC event at Biddulph Old Hall and our May Day at Astbury. This will be held on Saturday 17th May at Glebe Farm. Kate is encouraging WI members and everyone else to enter the VE Day themed Bake Off. The WI will be serving cakes, strawberries and cream, crisps and hot and cold drinks in the refreshments marquee. Catherine Pedley (our Dane Valley Group rep) encouraged members to put their names down to attend the Spring Group Meeting on Thursday 15th May at Lower Withington Village Hall. Speakers at the group meetings are always really good and it is a wonderful opportunity to know fellow members in neighbouring WIs.

Members were reminded to check the dates and times on our forthcoming events board for our 'Strollers' Walks, Knit and Natter Sessions and our Spring Lunch to take place at The Egerton Arms in Astbury on Wednesday 30th April.

Bowling News included the fact that our bowlers' subscriptions are due at the April Meeting along with our Membership Subscriptions of £51.00 which will also be payable at our April meeting. Margaret congratulated our Captain Anita Thompson and fellow bowler Joan Proctor who have kindly volunteered to take on the role of bowling treasurer at Congleton Bowls and Cricket Club. A new treasurer was needed after the sad loss of Colin Sagar who previously held the role.

Finally Margaret introduced Oliver Dunn, who demonstrated the art of tempering chocolate, making a simple but delicious fudge slab. Oli then made some scrumptious whiskey flavour truffles for us all to try.

As he worked he told us how his chocolate parties had evolved from his father's business Simon Dunn Chocolate which was initially based in Wilmslow. We were fascinated to watch him work quickly piping the truffles and covering them with tempered chocolate. He made it look so easy! After refreshments and a chance to socialise, buy from our artisan sales table, or select a book or two from the book stall, Margaret announce the winner of our hand-made chocolate competition. The voucher went to Carol Steer with Christine Manley in second place.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd April when our speaker will be Helen Wilshaw from Biddulph Grange Gardens. The competition will be for a spring flower arrangement.

Visitors are always welcome.

If you would like to come along to a meeting or need further information, please contact Margaret on [07581095418](tel:07581095418), Liz on [07766738004](tel:07766738004), or Kate on [07875691170](tel: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 day.

**ASTBURY
MAY DAY VE 80TH
ANNIVERSARY
BAKE OFF**

- Victory Cake** - a cake of any size and shape, fully decorated for a celebration event!
- Street Party Cake** - a cake you would serve at your street party - fruit cake, chocolate cake, Lemon drizzle!
- Trench Cake Tray Bake** - a tray bake of any design to reflect a war-time theme!
- Children's Mini Union Jack cupcakes** - Decorated in any way with icing, sprinkles, or flags.
- Children's Victory Cookies** - Iced biscuits can be of any design and Soldier or war time themed or celebratory biscuits.

**GLEBE FARM ASTBURY.
SAT 17TH MAY**
ALL ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED
BY 10.30AM TO THE REFRESHMENT TENT
TO REGISTER PLEASE EMAIL US
ASTBURYMAYDAY@GMAIL.COM OR ENTER ON THE DAY!
GOOD LUCK AND GET BAKING.



ADVANCE PUBLICITY ASTBURY GARDEN TRAIL JUNE 7TH

Have a lovely afternoon out for a tenner* at the Astbury Garden Trail on June 7th

All proceeds are for St Mary's Astbury Church improvements

Pick up a leaflet with full details in April from Glebe Farm, St Mary's, local garden centres, and pay at your first garden.

Brief details of gardens open

1, Ivy Cottage, Brook Lane + plant sales

The house was a former "Ale House" built in the late 1700s, then divided into 2 cottages around 1870.

There was an massive renovation of the gardens, on a tight budget, using reclaimed materials (if possible) with lots of home raised plants. This is a work in progress!

Foxfield House, Astbury Green

The garden slopes towards a large pond and a wild area, with stones from the foundations of a half-timbered house that once stood here, used around the pond and to wall the edge of the wild garden. One border features perennial flowers with azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons flourishing down the other border.

Black and White Cottage, Astbury Green

Historical features in the garden consist of a natural pond, and a grove of yew trees, estimated to be 250 years old. The last 25 years has seen the owners configure levels, plant beds and establish lawn geometry

'Wits End', School Lane, Astbury

The garden is a large triangular plot, laid to lawn and surrounded by hedges which gives a strong structure and within which the house sits well. Small borders contain mostly perennials and there are wonderful rural views.

Potter's Hill, School Lane, Astbury

The present owners have designed a wonderful, large garden, full of interest in all seasons. It is truly a labour of love.

Astbury House, Moss Road + refreshments

A large garden with a spacious lawn and borders planted with bushes and flowers. A generous terrace with plenty of seating for afternoon tea and a chance to see the alpacas!

*£10 per person includes admission to all the gardens plus tea and a piece of cake

We also hope to have the church open for visiting



ASTBURY ROLL OF HONOUR

Arthur PLANT: Arthur was born to Samuel and Annie Plant (nee Boon) on 6/8/1895 at Railway Cottage Fence Lane/Watery Lane Newbold Astbury, and baptised at Astbury Church 29/9/1895, his father was a wheelwright. He was still residing there in 1901, and when he signed up in Congleton on 20th January 1915 aged 19 years 125 days. At the time he was a carpenter and was assigned as a sapper No: 61771 (A sapper, also called a combat engineer, is a combatant or soldier who performs a variety of military engineering duties, such as breaching fortifications, demolitions, bridge-building, laying or clearing mine-fields, preparing field defences, and road and airfield construction and repair.) to the Royal Engineers. He served in France, and happily survived the horrors of WW1. By 1921 he was back at Railway Cottage living with his widowed mother. He married Hannah Armit in 1923 at Astbury and they went on to have 2 sons. By the 1939 Register he had moved to Roe Park Lodge, Moreton cum Alcumlow with his family. He was still working as a joiner. Arthur passed away in 1942 and was buried in Astbury along with his wife Hannah who passed away in 1957.

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) Peter Cliff 01260 275700 (M) Phill Critchlow 01260272174 (M)

Barbara Jelf 01477500541 (M) Ian Parry 07917 050 443 (A) Sean Harrop 07900045495 (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.

Please check the website for the dates of our meetings.