



Christmas Lights.

Once again, the village green looked stunning over the Christmas period, with the Sycamore Tree, floodlit and adorned with lights. On behalf of the 2 Parishes, The Parish Council would like to say a great big "Thank You" to the generous team of people involved, who supply the lights, gave time to set it up and take it down, provide the electricity and who helped in any way what so ever!

NEWS

Look out for the daffodils at the crossroads at the junctions of Lime Kiln Farm Lane, Oak Lane and Fence Lane which were planted in the Autumn!

The oak tree at Acker's Crossing is growing well and we have replaced the plaque which had got damaged. (see left/below)

The footpath between Brownlow Heath lane and Moreton Cottages has been sided out by Cheshire East using our Ward councillors budget. (right)



ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING 2025

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council will hold its Annual Parishes Meeting on Wednesday 8th. April 2026 at 7.30 pm. in Astbury Village Hall.

There will be a Chairman's Report.

There will also be an opportunity to discuss Parish Issues.



Full details and further information will be found shortly on the Website and in the next Newsletter.

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



SIDs

As I reported last time, we're planning to install a mobile SID to monitor speed and volume of traffic in the Parish. Unfortunately Cheshire East Highways still haven't installed the poles that the SID will be mounted on. The costs will come from our Ward Councillor's discretionary budget allocation, not from the Parish Council budget. Despite this, CE Highways still instructed a debt collector to threaten me for non-payment for a service we haven't received and which they had already agreed we didn't need to pay for!

Precept

The precept is the amount of money the Parish Council requests from Cheshire East Council each year via the Council Tax. In Financial Year 2025/2026 the Council requested a precept of £22,000. For 26/27 the Council decided to maintain the precept at £22,000. This actually means a small reduction in the Band D equivalent from £61.20 in 25/26 to £60.41 in 26/27. And unlike the Council Tax more generally, all of this money will be spent in the Parish. Given the current financial difficulties Cheshire East finds itself in, it's possible in future that more services which were historically provided by Cheshire East will be cut or reduced, and Parish Councils may have to take on some responsibility for them instead. We continue to discuss the implications of this with our neighbouring Parish Councils and Congleton Town Council.

Defibrillator

Unfortunately the saga of the replacement telephone kiosk to house a defibrillator at Ackers Crossing continues. After contacting the company supplying it many times, they eventually said it had been delivered in September! Clearly it hasn't been and we are still chasing this up.

Lychgate Light

In December the Lychgate light at Astbury Church failed. Perhaps oddly it belongs to the Parish Council, not the Church, and thankfully we were able to get an electrician to fix it in time for the various carol and other services before Christmas.

Astbury Church Choir

Singing is really good for you, so come and try out St Mary's choir in warmth and comfort! While the church is closed we'll be rehearsing in the Village Hall every Friday in March, from 7.00 to 8.00 pm.

Everyone is most welcome and practices are relaxed and friendly. You don't need an amazing voice - an ordinary one is actually better in a choir. Nor do you need to be able to read music as, although we sing in parts, notes are taught.

There are usually about 18 singers at rehearsals. Some belong to our morning group and some to our more formal, robed evening choir. Others just join us for special services such as Christmas, Easter and weddings.

If you'd like to sing or want more information please contact Sally Drage: 07977 903561, or music@astburychurch.org.uk.

News from The Ladies Fellowship

Services at Astbury church have now been suspended for some building restoration and urgently needed fund raising. Rising costs have put this beautiful, ancient church into this dire financial position. Our sister church, St. John's of Smallwood, has given us a very warm welcome to join them at their Sunday services (beginning at 10am) and last Sunday some 40 people joined the congregation at Smallwood., and it worked well. We are aiming to reopen Astbury church on Palm Sunday, 29th March, for Easter.

Before this, the church will be open for Ina Lomas's funeral on Thursday, 12th February, at 12 noon. On Saturday, 18th April, there will be a concert of celebration in church at 7pm

When the Little Moreton Singers will entertain us and there will be wine, soft drinks and nibbles. (Tickets on sale At the end of February - £15.) If you would like to make a donation to Astbury church on line- go to 'astburychurch.org.uk', scroll down to the daffodil logo and follow instructions. If you have any queries about anything please contact me on 07484525829. Best wishes,
Carole Goodwin



Pictures from Astbury School

Due to snowy weather we had to sadly cancel our January meeting and as the snow continued to fall, followed by a cold spell and thus ice, we decided to keep warm indoors! But behind the scenes our WI members were busy planning the next years events. Despite the challenging weather we do what we do best in a crisis and soldiered on and met up on Zoom. Small groups who lived close by met up and we all shared and rallied round and looked out for each other!

Our next meeting is on the 4th February and our Speaker will be Suzan Holder - Noddy Holder's wife who is a writer and writes romantic adventures with a Musical twist as Noddy was in that famous pop group called Slade in the 70's - remember that iconic Christmas song! We are looking forward to hearing about her life and what she spends her time doing. Do come along as everyone is welcome. We start at 7.30pm.

Joan our Vice President met up with 2 other Committee Members to organize new events and the meeting in March has been booked in - this will be a 'would- be' contestant for the famous show the Great British Bake off or GBBO for short! Deborah Cox has applied for several years to try and get on the GBBO to no avail so she sets herself the same tasks and does them in the same time frame as the TV program! We hope to be inspired by Deborah as she will be bringing her ideas and baking tips to make fabulous cakes, and we will also be tasting them too!

Our President Kate Naylor attended a Zoom meeting with over 100 other WI members within the Cheshire Area to discuss the Resolutions put forward to which all WI members will be voting for - the categories are as follows: Action on Women's Homelessness, Nearer to Nature, Accessible Public Toilet Facilities for All, Every Child Needs a friend and Defence on Vulval Cancer. The WI will be voting for one of the above which then goes forward and the NFWI will campaign to the Government.

Our WI at Astbury is unique as are all the WI groups and we are happy to discuss our full Calendar of events with prospective members - you can try out a range of activities and discover new interests. Both physical and virtual events at local federation and National level. You will have the opportunity to meet like-minded women from all different backgrounds. There's also a WI learning Hub (Online Courses) a range of Lifelong learning and self-Development courses across a broad range of topics. Do come along and get involved with local events and the community - one highlight of our Calendar is the Astbury May Day where we run the Refreshment tent and a great day and camaraderie will be had plus plenty of fun and laughter! we welcome you to our meetings so please come along to the 1st Wednesday of the Month!

Call **Kate Naylor President of Astbury WI** - 07875691170 for more information or to Register to join us at our next meeting.

News from Astbury School

Astbury School children and staff have been busy learners - as always! The tag rugby team competed against other schools in our Academy (CDAT) and got through to the final. The cross country team were in action against other Congleton schools. Children in Y5 were out on the playground on their bikes learning how to be safe completing bikeability level one. Over the summer, the gardening club had planted potatoes and there was a great harvest. The winning duo had grown thirty-one potatoes in their pot! Learning about local traditions, the Chester steam pudding is always a favourite on the curriculum. The children in Class Mary used their maths knowledge to weigh their ingredients and worked well as teams to prepare their puddings, they were delicious!

At Christmas time, we were overwhelmed with the number of shoe boxes that were generously donated by our families to the Operation Christmas Child charity. The Autumn finished beautifully with our traditional Christingle service in Astbury Church. The church was full of families and friends celebrating Jesus, the light of the world.

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



Roll of Honour continued: This article is about the last 5 brave men listed on the Roll of honour in the church which concludes the story. **If you think that you know someone who is missing and should be included on the Roll of Honour, please let us know. Thank you.**

Reginald Jones Crawford DAVENPORT was born in Sandbach, on the 18th. February 1893, the only child of Charles and Hannah Davenport (nee Heason) who had married in Astbury church on the 18/10/1891. Reginald was baptised at Astbury on the 2/4/1893 where Charles is described as an engine fitter of Sandbach. By the time the 1901 census was taken on 31/3/1901 the family had relocated to Astbury Marsh, Charles still an engine fitter and Reginald at school (presumably Astbury). The family were still there in 1911, occupations as before, but Reginald had left school as he was now 18 and was an apprentice joiner. The only war record I have found is that his service number was 143606 and he was a sapper (a sapper built and repaired infrastructure- which being a carpenter was very suitable!) in the Royal Engineers . Happily he survived and was married in Rochdale to Thisila M Hassall (who was from Congleton) and by the time of the 1921 census they were living in Astbury Marsh and Reg is a carpenter/joiner for the Government Housing Scheme in Buglawton. When the 1939 register was taken in late September of that year, the family were living at 16 Astbury Marsh, Reg still a carpenter/joiner. Sadly Thisila passed away on the 3/1/1952 and Reginald 18/2/1983 and they were laid to rest together in Astbury.



Harry DAVIES: It is unclear who this fellow was. There are a few Harry/Harold/Henry Davies' living in the Congleton/Hulme Walfield/Odd Rode/Smallwood area, but unfortunately I can find no clear evidence in any military records. Can you help? Do you think you know who this man might be? **If so, please contact us.**

Joseph DAVENPORT: Again this is unclear who this man was, as there are various candidates, but no clear evidence. Can you help? Do you think you know who this man might be? **If so, please contact us.**

William MOORES: Again this is unclear who this man was, as there are various candidates, but no clear evidence. Can you help? Do you think you know who this man might be? **If so, please contact us.**

Cyril Holland SHACKERLEY-ACKERS: (right) Cyril was born on the 28/2/1897 in Altrincham to George Herbert and Evelyn Mary Frances (nee France-Hayhurst) Shakerley. He was baptised 13/4/1897 in Wilmslow Parish Church (father a gentleman) On the 1891 census the family are living in Tickhill, Yorkshire where his father is a J.P. for the county of Cheshire and Cyril, 4, is at school. By the time of the 1911 census Cyril is to be found at a boarding school in Middlesex. Upon attesting, he was a lieutenant in The Kings Royal Rifle Corps. He progressed to a 2nd. Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, becoming a 2nd. Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps. He was reported missing on 26/2/1918, but in fact had become a prisoner of war, captured at Le Catcau and incarcerated at Off Inf Lag Karlsruhe. After repatriation he resided at Great Moreton Hall until about 1921 (in 1921 the Hall was occupied by Robert Peel esq. a cotton merchant of Manchester) and Cyril is found at Doddleswell House, Fairwarp, Uckfield, Sussex with his parents. He married Elizabeth Averil Eardley-Wilmot in London in 1928 and on the 1939 register his wife and children are living in Petworth, Sussex. Cyril and was not included, as he had become a captain in the Royal Sussex Regiment. He survived the second world war and passed away 21/8/1970 in Midhurst, Sussex.

Who are we? Please feel free to get in touch

Judith Critchlow (Chair) 01260 272174 (M)

Nick Plant (vice chair) 07801 545402 (A)

Carlton Evans (Clerk) 07734 808677

Andy Banks 01260 281194 (A)	Megan Bailey 01260 641292 (A)	Peter Cliff 01260 275700 (M)
Phill Critchlow 01260 272174 (M)	Sean Harrop 07900 045495 (A)	Tracey Potts 07780 310 962 (A)
Barbara Jelf 01477 500541 (M)	Ian Parry 07917 050 443 (A)	Clare Pear 07764 761475 (A)

Carrie Sutton 07979 983915 (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.