Newbold Astbury & Moreton Cum Alcumlow Newsletter: November 2026

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our parishioners from the Parish Council!

WEBSITE: http://astbury-moreton-pc.gov.uk



Tree at the Village Green

We recently commissioned a survey of the sycamore at the Village Green. The arboriculturist recommended some work to prune out a couple of beams that are cracked, have subsided and are being supported to varying degrees on limbs beneath. The survey also 'strongly advised' us to raise the crown a little because the clearance heights over the roads on both sides are below statutory requirements. It goes without saying that we want to ensure that all remedial work is done sensitively and retains the tree's strong aesthetic qualities.

Because it's in the Conservation Area it is automatically covered by a Tree Preservation Order. We've applied for planning permission to undertake the works but it's likely we won't have an answer for several weeks. If we are granted permission then we have a local firm of tree surgeons ready to start early in the New Year. We will keep you posted and let you know once we have a definite date, and of course we'll try to make sure that any disruption is kept to a minimum.

Does anyone have any old photographs of the sycamore when it was first planted? We've found one online from 1902, ***but do you have any others you could share please, especially any pre-1902?***

Defibrillator – finally!

At long last we've managed to get a replacement defibrillator installed in the refurbished phone box at Ackers Crossing. To be honest it's been a bit of a nightmare with all sorts of conflicting advice and delays as I've mentioned here before. But, it's there now, thanks especially to Claire Pear for helping us get the project over the line. Speaking of Claire, I'm sorry to say that she has now resigned from the Parish Council. I'd like to offer the sincere thanks and best wishes of all our Councillors for her positive contribution, but also my own thanks for the help and support she's given me.

It means of course that we have a vacancy, so if any of you are interested or know someone who is, please let me know.

The External Audit has been completed

It's that time of year again and the Council's External Audit has concluded. Rather irritatingly the opinion from the Auditor was 'qualified' for two inconsequential reasons. There was one small mathematical error, and though there used to be a 'not applicable' box to tick for the question of whether our accounts included Trust Funds, this year it was only a 'yes/no' option. I and literally hundreds of Clerks ticked the wrong box and said 'no'. Even before the deadline for submitting our audit documents had passed, the powers that be had issued their revised guidance and the correct answer to the question next year will be – you've guessed it – 'no'.

SID installed

You may have noticed that the SID we bought to monitor speed and volume of traffic has been installed on Peel Lane. Anecdotally we think it's already making a positive difference on speeds, though it will take a little while to collect sufficient data to be sure. So far, although the

average speeds seem to be below the 40mph limit, the maximum speed recorded so far on 13th. October at 7.00 am was-82mph!

From the Rev. Heather Carter:

A Christmas Welcome

Christmas is fast approaching, and once again our parish has plenty planned to celebrate this special time of year. You'll find all the dates and details of our Christmas services and activities below, and we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're a regular visitor or haven't been for a while, we'd love to see you. We can't promise a warm church, but we can promise a warm-hearted welcome — so wrap up well, bring your Christmas spirit (and perhaps an extra jumper!), and come and join us!
Wishing you all a joyful, peaceful and blessed Christmas.
St Mary's Ministry Team.

Dates for your Christmas Diary

Murder Mystery ** 21st November 7.30pm

A Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel **
27th November 7.30pm

Advent Sunday Carol Service
29th November 6.30pm

Little Moreton Singers at Biddulph Old Hall **
4th December 4pm

Carol Service at Somerford Chapel
13th December 2.30pm

Carol Service 20th December 6.30pm

Live Nativity (meet at Glebe Farm) **
21st December 6pm

Live Nativity (meet at Glebe Farm) **
22nd December 6pm

Crib Service 24th December 5pm

Midnight Communion 24th December 11.45pm

Christmas Day 25th December 10am

Tickets: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12754/service-and-events/events-all/

https://www.facebook.com/StMarysAstbury/?locale=en_GB

** indicates pre-booking will be required

Astbury St Mary's C of E Primary School

Walk in love as Christ loves you. Ephesians 5:2

News from Astbury St Mary's

The children have settled well back into school life and it has been a busy and exciting half term for everyone! We have enjoyed a whole-school Vocabulary Day, encouraging the children to explore and celebrate the power of words. Our Year 3 and 4 children had a wonderful residential adventure at Standon Bowers, while Years 5 and 6 have been developing their cycling skills through Bikeability and enjoyed an educational visit to the Imperial War Museum. As always, our sporting calendar has been full of opportunities, with children enthusiastically taking part in tag rugby, netball and cross-country running. Some of our special moments this term have included spending time with the residents at Astbury Mere Care Home and coming together as a school community to celebrate Harvest at St Mary's Church. It has been particularly lovely to see our school values of **self-control, peace and kindness** shining through in all that we do at Astbury St Mary's.





President Kate Naylor opened the meeting and welcomed all members new and old. Our October birthday buttonholes were then distributed. We held a minute silence to remember our dearly departed friend Marion Higginbottom.

Our competition this month was "An Apple in any Medium" organised and displayed by Dotty Kallis and was judged by our speaker on the evening. We had some really good entries and the competition was won by Kate Naylor for her deconstructed Apple pie with Carol Steer coming second with a lovely 3D picture.

This month, we welcomed Peter Aston from The Old Saw Mill, who gave us a fascinating, informative and entertaining talk about the origins and history of the enterprise.

What began as a humble venture pressing apple juice from friends' surplus apples grew into an amazing enterprise, with conservation at the heart of everything Peter and his wife did. Their achievements included establishing a café that was honoured by a royal visit from the then Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Peter and his wife Linda were passionate about serving their local community. During the various Covid lockdowns, The Old Saw Mill provided a vital meal delivery service for vulnerable people, demonstrating their commitment to helping those in need.

Sadly, the business eventually became unviable and The Old Saw Mill has now closed. However, Peter and Linda have exciting plans for the future, including developing a piece of unused land in Congleton. They remain committed to serving the community while continuing to uphold their conservation principles, and they still provide freshly cooked meals for local people.

Peter's talk introduced us to a truly inspiring couple whose dedication, hard work and selflessness showed us all what can be achieved by members of the public with a vision and a desire to make a difference. We all felt proud to listen to him.

We also had the pleasure of sampling some of the delicious apple juice produced by The Old Saw Mill, which was a lovely way to round off a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring talk.

The usual tea cake and raffle ended our evening. We then finished with our National Anthem assisted once again by Margaret on piano and the meeting was closed.

Our next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday 4th November. Should you wish to find any more information about Astbury WI please contact Kate Naylor on 07875691170. We always warmly welcome new members!

Dotty Kallis on behalf of Astbury Women's Institute.





Ladies Fellowship

At Astbury St. Mary's we are continuing to hold events to raise money for the extensive repairs needed for our beautiful, ancient church. On 21st Nov at 7 30pm there will be a "murder mystery" evening-see if you can guess who the murderer is-

On Fri. 27th November there will be a celebration of Simon and Garfunkel at 7 30pm. Tickets £15. All these events will take place in the church.

We do hope you can find something of interest from the above to come and

join us. Astbury Live Nativity will take place on Mon. 21st and Tue 22nd December, All setting off from Glebe Farm at 6pm. Adult £6. Child £3. Family-2 adults and 2 children-£15.-and finishing with mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies. All tickets may be ordered on line through www.astburychurch.org.uk.

We hope to see you at some of the events, and wish everyone a good Christmas and Happy New Year.

Carole Goodwin on behalf of the ladies Fellowship.

Who lived in your house a century (well, 105!) years ago?

Last time, we ambled from Moreton Cottages on the Astbury/Moreton parish boundary, up to Brownlow Heath, Brownlow, Child's Lane and Wall Hill Lane. Now the journey continues along the A534 Sandbach Road to Whetstone Edge, Field House Farm, Bent Farm then down to Astbury Marsh, back along the A34 towards Astbury, via Smithy Cottage, up Magpie Bank to The Dairybrook area. The journey will continue in the next Newsletter. The 1921 census was taken on the evening of Sunday 19th. June 1921. **(It is unclear from the census records if some houses had a name or number in 1921 or not, so it's hard to be precise about some properties! More up to date names are shown in brackets.)**

Wall Hill Farm: Alfred Tipping, dairy farmer and 7 others. **Wall Hill (Post Box Cottage):** William Tryno, waggoner, and 2 others. **Wall Hill (Greenways Cottage):** Harry Brayford, market gardener/farmer and 3 others. **Whetstones Edge:** Joseph Glover, farmer and 2 others. **Whetstones Edge:** Edwin J Hodgkinson, market gardener/farmer and 2 others. **Fieldhouse Farm:** Charles Bibby, dairy farmer and 5 others. **Bent Farm:** Geoffrey Hill, dairy farmer plus 5 others. **Astbury Marsh (no longer extant):** James G Cartlidge, bricklayer and 1 other. **Astbury Marsh (no longer extant):** William H Ball, platelayer and 6 others. **Astbury Marsh (no longer extant):** Frank Hearson, blacksmith and 2 others. **Astbury Marsh (no longer extant):** Horsewood Marshall, old age pensioner, and 1 other. **Astbury Marsh (no longer extant):** Annie Holliday, home duties and no others. **Village (Smithy Cottage):** Abraham Sanderson, foundry labourer plus 3 others. **Magpie Hill (Ivy Cottage):** Rose Wilson and 4 others. **Magpie Hill (Magpie Cottage)**: Alfred Bowker, steam roller driver and 5 others. **Dairybrook Farm (Millbrook House/Dairybrook Farm):** William Dean, dairy farmer and 3 others. **Dubthorne Farm:** John Sutton, dairy farmer , and 5 others. **Dairybrook Farm (Whitethorn Farm):** John Siddorn, dairy farmer and 5 others. **Dairybrook Farm (Brook Farm):** George Davenport, dairy farmer and 4 others.

If you would like more details and a print of the inhabitants of your house on this census, (for a donation of £5.00 to Astbury Church) or if you would like to know more about who occupied your property in 1921 please contact Councillor Phill Critchlow at: **phill.critchlow@astbury-moreton-pc.gov.uk**

Newbold Astbury continues in the next Newsletter

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) 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) 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.