

Newsletter

Issue 39, Winter 2017



Photograph courtesy of Councillor Allan Bridge

www.avpc.org.uk

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our newsletter for the Autumn 2017.

During the Spring of 2016 our bus service was restored to run down both sides of Chancery Road, so consequently the Parish Council felt it was worthwhile installing more benches at bus stops. Little did we realise how much they would be needed by waiting passengers in September 2017. At our September meeting, following less than a weeks notice of the new timetable, which cut the bus service by 50%, the Council agreed to ask a representative of Stagecoach to attend our November meeting. We will keep residents informed of the outcome!

The Parish Council have taken further steps to improve the environment of the village centre and so I am saddened to see the results of some mindless vandalism, which includes the removal of a drainpipe from outside the pharmacy and the breaking of the magnolia tree planted by the WI to commemorate their centenary. Litter around the centre has increased as well, much of it around the new bench and litter



bin. This is our village and it is up to us to look after it.

On a positive note, Christmas is coming and the Parish Council has made all the arrangements for our annual village carol singing event. It will take place on 11th December at 7pm close to the Christmas tree, in front of the community centre. Parklands Band will play for us and the WI will serve the refreshments in the community centre after the singing. You are all invited.

The Parish Council wish you all,

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Laura Lennox
Chairman

VILLAGE BUS SERVICE

When a Stagecoach representative attended the Parish Council meeting in 2016 we were promised an improved service which ran to Leyland and Preston as well as Chorley and the hospital. Well it only lasted 18 months and yet again without notification, let alone consultation our bus service has been cut in half.

Students, school children and people going to work have had their travel plans seriously affected. In fact many may have made different decisions about where they would go to college, school or work if they had known what was planned. Many have to make very early starts for much longer journey times and some have difficulty getting home.

These cuts occurred at the same time the County Council were introducing subsidised services in rural areas. Although Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council subsidise the evening and Sunday service, funding by Lancashire made available for rural bus services, is not being directed to Astley Village, where people need a regular service that enables them to visit the doctor or dentist etc.



Some of us look back to the days when the Chorley circular ran every 15 to 20 minutes and wonder why this service was axed, as it not only served Astley Village well but other areas of the town too.

Meetings have taken place between Stagecoach and the MP, as well as Councillors from Chorley and Lancashire. Suggestions have been put forward as to how a viable and regular service could run, which would restore our much needed bus into Chorley. The Parish Council have been consulted about supporting a service with funding from our precept. Discussions are still ongoing and as yet there has not been a positive outcome. The Parish Council will continue to press for a better service and we will keep residents informed of the outcome.

Laura Lennox
Chairman

GOLD AT SHOW

Buckshaw Primary School run a weekly gardening club and this year decided to enter the mini show garden competition at the Chorley Flower Show at the end of July.

The theme was, "All things bugs and beautiful". The children made the decorations for the back board as well as bug hotels, a hover fly lagoon and an insect drinking pool.

The garden was stocked with pollinator friendly plants, whilst the back board also provided useful information on pollinating insects, for visitors to read.



Not only did visitors to the show enjoy the garden, so did the judges, who awarded it a gold medal!

Congratulations to the builders and to the designers.

VILLAGE CLEANING

Over the last 12 months Councillor Matt Lynch has organised a monthly litter pick for Astley Village Parish Council, supported by Chorley Council.

These have proved very popular with the young members of the community and have been a real success in helping enhance the service already provided. Furthermore, all volunteers received one Time Credit for every hour they volunteered. It was great to see that Astley Village Cubs Scouts and Beavers visited Blackpool Tower using these to save over £2000 towards the cost of the trip.



As well as this Chorley Council provides free collection of large electrical items and has held an annual community clean-up day including supplying large skips for unwanted items. Please contact Chorley Council on, 01257 515151, if you have items to dispose of.

We continue to support these initiatives and are committed to reporting environmental issues, including fly tipping, overflowing bins, litter and overgrown hedges and trees. Our aim is a safe and clean community.

Councillor Matt Lynch

FRIENDS OF ASTLEY PARK

This has been a very productive year for us with new ventures and earlier ones beginning to bear fruit.

The reed bed is coming along nicely and the River Chor now has a number of small fish which have attracted the attention of a Kingfisher. The pond in front of the Hall has regular visits from a pair of cormorants which means that there must be a significant number of fish.

One of the jobs which we undertake is the cutting back of some of the saplings which tend to create areas which are too dark for woodland flowers. Much time and effort has been spent on trying to control Himalayan Balsam which is swamping native plants in some parts of the park. Luckily, these plants are easy to identify and easy to pull up.

Our maintenance of the Sensory Garden is a regular activity and is certainly developing as the years pass. The wind-chime in the tree above the garden has a beautiful and mellow tone.

The group was represented at Chorley Flower Show and a large number of people visited our display but we did not manage to enlist new members.

We held two more 'Bat Walks' during the summer and the County's expert 'Bat Man', identified a rare type of bat bringing the total number of species in our park to 7.



Photographs courtesy of Councillor Allan Bridge

One of our biggest enterprises is the restoration and recommissioning of a stone fountain which we believe was erected in the early 1800's. A small part of the stonework was sticking out of mud in a deep hollow.

On further investigation we found the three main sections of the fountain. We were fortunate to

obtain a grant from Tesco to assist the project, there was no way that we could have lifted the heavy stones by hand.

The fountain has been tested and works! We hope to complete the scheme before the end of November. The fountain is approximately 300m along the path from the Gate House on Southport Road.

We have written to the Council with suggestions for improvements to the playground both in regard to extending the range of equipment and improvements to the maintenance of the current facilities.

I would like to end with an invitation to join us. As you know we participate in a wide variety of tasks, some strenuous, others not so, such as tending the planters in the courtyard of Cafe Ambio and the sensory garden.

So, if you feel you would like to help us to work with the Council to continue to make our park something that we can be rightly proud of, contact us.

For information and contact details please visit our website at www.friendsofastleypark.com or contact Keith Woan on 01257 278759

John McAndrew



Balsam bashing activity



VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

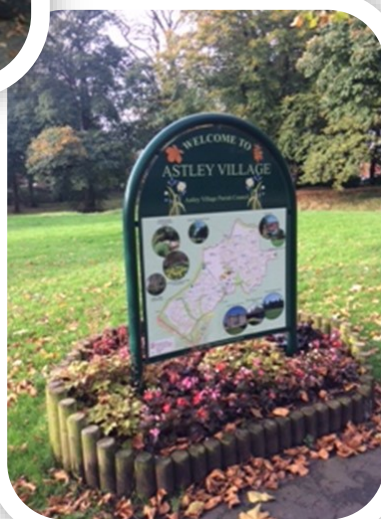
As part of the Development Plan for the Village, the Parish Council has installed three further benches - one near the shops and community centre to replace an old metal seat, and two by bus stops near Broadfields and Judeland / Wymundsley.



All the bus stops in the Village now have seats for people to sit on while walking around the Village or waiting for a bus.

The Council has contracted with Chorley Council to plant up the stone and wooden planters and the plants used have certainly brightened up the Village. Residents have been very positive about the stone planters in the Village centre and the Council is planning to commission further stone planters to enhance the entrances to the Village.

Councillor Chris Lennox



CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

Dial A Ride

Your Local Community Transport Service



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US ON:

01257 260488

Central Lancs Dial A Ride Ltd • Unit 3 Lower Healey Business Park • Froom Street • Chorley • PR6 9AR

**OFFICE
OPEN**
9.00am to
1.00pm

Dial A Ride Door to Door Bus Service

This is a service that operates around the towns and villages within Chorley and it's surrounding areas and the South Ribble area. Areas covered include:

Chorley Borough

Adlington
Astley Village
Brinscall
Buckshaw Village
Charmock Richard
Chorley
Clayton-le-Woods
Coppull
Croston
Eccleston
Euxton
Heath Charmock
Mawdsley

Wheulton
Whittle-le-Woods
Withnell

South Ribble

Bamber Bridge
Leyland
Farrington
Houghton
Hutton
Lostock Hall
Much Haole
New Longton
Penwortham
Walton-le-Dale

Volunteer Car Scheme

We have a small number of volunteer drivers using their own cars, who provide an excellent personal service to undertake medical and other appointments.



Day Trips

Throughout the year we organise a variety of day trips to include: shopping outings, visits to the garden centre and lunches out. Examples of the places we visit are Southport, Morecambe, Barton Grange Garden Centre, Bents, Boundary Mill, Oswaldtwistle Mill to name but a few.



Group Transport

Our minibuses are available for group transport by community and volunteer organisations for day trips.

For more information call us on: **01257 260488**

01257 696 050

E:mark.booker@independentlivinglancashire.co.uk

PROVIDING FREEDOM AT HOME
INDEPENDENT Living

"Are care services available throughout the night?"

Ask Amanda!

Amanda Barlow is the Registered Care Manager for Independent Living who will answer all your questions.

YES. Two types of care are available.

A "sitting watch" - the carer is alert and available to work throughout the night. This is used when someone is very ill and requires constant attention. A "sleep-in" is where the carer sleeps but can be woken up a maximum of three times.

This is ideal if a carer is needed for reassurance or for a few one-off tasks such as helping a person to the toilet or prompt medication and is cheaper. Both these options can be long or short term.

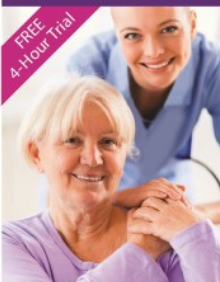
A legal ruling concluded that carers must be paid at least the minimum wage - even when sleeping - because they are at work. Independent Living complies with the law, we pay our staff above the legal hourly rate so you can be sure with us everything is done properly.

Independent Living also offers a "7 till 7" emergency call out service. If you need help in the night, for example after a fall, if you feel ill or need to go to hospital a carer can visit to help - even at 2am!



If you want advice, or our leaflet on Overnight Care & "7 till 7"

Please call Amanda: 01257 696 050



**FREE
4-Hour Trial**

Independent Living can provide the best quality bespoke care in people's own homes. We offer a wide range of services that are all tailored to suit individual needs.

We provide services such as:

- Companionship
- Memory Loss/Alzheimers Support
- Helping with hobbies & interests
- Housekeeping
- Looking after pets
- Transport & travel
- Insured transport to appointments
- Personal home care
- Overnight, 24 hour or live in care
- Parkinson's & Stroke support
- Medication prompting
- End of life care

Providing freedom at home



www.independentlivinglancashire.co.uk

The Neighbourhood Policing team for the area of Euxton, Astley and Buckshaw Villages is:

PC Mick Payne CBM and

PCSO Ray Chadwick

PCSO Megan Gornall

Lancashire Police offer a free crime alert messaging service. If you would like to receive these free crime alerts you can do so by filling in some basic details at www.stayintheknow.co.uk



Chorley Police Station 01257 269021

Central Control Centre 101

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

(anonymous reporting)

All emergency calls 999

COUNCIL INFO

Council Clerk, Mrs Debra Platt
9 Ambleside Avenue, Euxton, PR7 6NX
Tel. 01257 234003
Email: clerk@avpc.org.uk

Visit the website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information.

Full Council Meetings are held on Wednesday's in Astley Village Community Centre beginning at 7.00pm, forthcoming 2018 dates are:

**10 January, 7 March, 2 May,
4 July, 5 September, 7 November**

Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered solus to all Astley Village homes, a circulation of nearly 1500.

The Council has two notice boards located one at the junction of Chancery Road and Hallgate and the other, in the village centre next to the Community Centre.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The Council's notice board mounted on the shop wall, near to the Pharmacy entrance, is now being used as a Community notice board where groups can post messages about Community activities, events etc. Send any notices in to the Council Clerk.

SMALL GRANTS FUND

Astley Village Parish Council offers funding assistance to local organised groups for local projects.

The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands.

If your group would like to apply, all they need to do is submit an application form with some details.

Contact the Parish Council for a copy of the grant criteria and form or see them on the website.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The village newsletter is produced by the Parish Council and distributed to all Astley Village homes. It has spaces for local businesses to advertise to subsidise the cost of its printing and distribution.

It is printed on quality A5 gloss art paper in full colour and is 16 sides of A5, booklet, and distributed in Spring and Winter. A total print for the newsletter is 1600, delivered by local distributor to every house, approximately 1420 properties in Astley Village.

Besides this delivery, the Parish Council gives a supply to the Community Centre for visitors to collect, the shops and at Derian House. Also, the newsletter appears on the website.

Full Page Adverts, Size: A5, artwork produced, £70 per issue.

Half Page Adverts, Size: half A5, artwork produced, £45 per issue.

Quarter Page Adverts, Size: quarter A5, artwork produced, £25 per issue.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Astley Village Parish Council has two vacancies for Parish Councillors, following resignations. These will be filled by co-option.

If you feel you can improve your local area, bring ideas to the Council or campaign for changes then why not consider being a Parish Councillor.

Any person wishing to serve as a Councillor should write to the Council giving some details and information about themselves, background and why they wish to become a Parish Councillor.

To qualify, a person must be a British subject, over 18 years old and an elector, must reside within Astley Village, or within 3 miles of it, or occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises therein, or have their principal or only place of work there, and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor.

ASTLEY VILLAGE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman

Cllr Laura Lennox
Judeland
Tel: 260264

Vice Chairman

Cllr Rod Fraser
Great Meadow
Tel: 07926 848426

Cllr Allan Bridge
Cloughacre
Tel: 231338

Cllr Chris Lennox
Judeland
Tel: 260264

Cllr Matthew Lynch
Buckshaw Hall Close
Tel: 07856 960931

Cllr John McAndrew
The Farthings
Tel: 262914

Cllr John Nuttall
Great Meadow
Tel: 07852 722204

Cllr Keith Robinson
Long Croft Meadow
Tel: 278686

CAROL SINGING

by the Christmas tree

Monday, 11th December at 7 pm



The Parish Council will again host seasonal festivities on the paved area in front of the shops and festive Christmas tree and lights.

There will be outdoor Christmas Carol Singing, accompanied by Parklands Academy players. Afterwards, Astley Village Parish Council invites residents attending the singing inside the Community Centre for warm mulled wine and mince pies, or hot chocolate.

The Ladies from the WI will be helping us serve warm drinks and mince pies to residents.

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