

NEWSLETTER

Issue 34, Spring 2015



www.avpc.org.uk

Chairman's Message

It was good to see the residents who came to the Christmas carol singing event in December. There was an excellent turn out and most residents came into the community centre for refreshments afterwards. Thanks to everyone involved.

The improvements to the area around the community centre are nearing completion and the new notice board paid for by the Parish Council, which contains Parish Council and Chorley Council information is now in use. The notice board outside the pharmacy will now be used to advertise community events. Contact the clerk to the council if your group wishes to advertise on this noticeboard.

Places for People have upgraded the wall opposite the community centre as part of the community centre project and the Parish Council hope to get the wall to the side of the pharmacy improved as well as the wall of the community centre itself. The path edges in the area have been neatened and some work has been done to tidy the trees and hedging at the edge of Raventhorpe. When completed this area should look much improved and provide a pleasant public space.

Our next joint project with Chorley Council is intended to enhance Chancery Road by planting more trees and a wild flower meadow as well as enhancing the "gateway" to Astley Park through our village.

Residents may have noticed the new knee rail near to Derian House. This has been installed to protect the road crossing point from parked cars. The Parish Council will continue to lobby Chorley and Lancashire councils about

the problems associated with parked vehicles along Chancery Road especially when events are held in Astley Park.

At our meeting in March, the council agreed to increase the budget for village improvements by £1500. This will enable the council to install a new bench at the Buckshaw Hall Close bus stop, on the Derian House side, where residents wait to catch the bus into Chorley.



Although not in Astley Village the Council was consulted last year about the redevelopment of the Rugby Club site and now that notices have appeared on the site, we assume work will soon be starting. Early this year the Parish Council were consulted about the redevelopment of the "Strawberry fields" site on Euxton Lane. Again although not in our parish, it will have an impact on the village. Whilst we felt the Rugby Club site was beneficial to residents we feel the change of use for the Euxton Lane site from industrial to housing and industrial, will have a very negative impact on Astley residents and all road users of Euxton Lane. We expressed particular concern about the number of cars that would be added to an already extremely busy road and the location of even more traffic lights in close proximity to the hospital and the complex Hartwood junction.

A new Parish Council will be elected in May, when the national and local elections are held. We would like to have representation from all areas of the village, so if you are interested in what happens in your locality, please consider standing.

Councillor Laura Lennox
Parish Council Chairman

Election News

All the Parish Councillor seats were up for election this May, which would have been held on the same day as the General Election.

As there were not more candidates than seats, the Parish Council did not have a Poll, and the candidates were elected unopposed.

This does leave vacancies on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option, see advert below.



Council Info

Council Clerk, Mrs Debra Platt
9 Ambleside Avenue
Euxton, PR7 6NX
Tel. 01257 234004
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, the forthcoming dates are:

**13 May, 1 July,
2 September, 4 November**

Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered solus to every Astley Village property with 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 etc. Send any notices in to the Council Clerk.

Public welcome

Members of the public are most welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Astley Village Parish Council has vacancies for a Parish Councillors, following the elections, which will be filled by co-option.

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. See the Council's website for more details.

Annual Report of Astley Village Parish Council Year April 2014 to March 2015

The Council

During the year ending March 2014 the Parish Council worked hard to maintain and improve the village for its residents.

Councillors

During the period the Council was chaired by Councillor Laura Lennox with Councillor Rod Fraser as the Vice Chairman.

In this year the Council ran with one vacant Councillor seat. All the Council seats will be up for election in May 2015.



Astley Village Newsletter

The newsletter was given new consideration by the Council and will continue to be the Council's primary way of communicating with residents with two issues per year covering all aspects of the Council's work and will be distributed to every household.

It underwent a re-design in the last issue and is now a glossy A5 leaflet style, which has been well received by residents.

Website

The website, for those of you with internet access, is updated regularly and provides much information on the Council's finance, activities, projects and developments in the village. In addition it contains all Council minutes and documents relating to its business.

Council Employees

The villages two village caretakers, Ronnie and Jamie, contribute so much to the excellent condition of our village, litter picking, tidying and doing other tasks such as putting up the Speed Indicator Device, planting up the flower beds and more. Debra Platt, the Clerk, also continued her excellent work for the Council.

Value for Money

The Council spends the money it collects from residents wisely and uses it for the benefit of Astley Village residents. Based on a band D council tax

property in the village, the approximate cost is 40p per week for the Parish Council's services during the year.

The Council Tax is collected by Chorley Council and costs residents an average of £21.16 for the year (based on a band D property). We hope you agree this is very good value for money.

The Council increased the village improvements budget to continue with the additional works in the village centre. This year it joined forces with Chorley Council to help it fund the changes in the centre with the new fencing, area adjacent to the community centre and noticeboards.



It also installed a new flower bed opposite the Broadfields junction and new seat at the bus stop by Great Meadow.

Summary

The Council looked forward to the challenges it faces in the coming years, due to changes to the Tax Base figures for the Parish Council. These changes

will affect its ability to raise the same levels of precept it has done in the past and may affect the level of services to its residents. This is evident by some cost cutting measures it has implemented such as the reduction in the number of meetings held in the year, from 10 to 6, making meetings now every other month and newsletters down to two per year.

Financial Summary

The financial summary is here, on the right.

Laura Lennox
Chairman
April 2015

Summary of Receipts and Payments

Year: 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

£

Receipts

Balance carried forward		11908
Precept	18816	
Bank Interest	11	
Advertisements	45	
VAT refunds	1627	
Misc income	3877	
Total Receipts	24376	24376
Receipts Total		36284

Expenditure

Administration (elections, employees, office)	13782	
Council (newsletter, grants, training)	904	
Projects	2643	
Vat on purchases	513	
Total Expenditure	17842	17842
Balance (total receipts less total payments)		18442

Restored Flower/Vegetable Beds

The first flower or vegetable bed on Great Meadow to receive a long awaited facelift has now been completed. Places for People were repeatedly asked by residents if they could take over the dilapidated beds and improve the area, now after a 10 year wait things are taking shape.



It has come at a cost to residents with an increase of up to 47p per week on top of the service charges that already apply making for an annual charge of approximately £340.00 (This is in addition to Council tax and the Parish Council charge).

PFP have set up a "Green Team" with selected residents involved, I have tried to enquire with regard to their intentions only to be told that no meeting has taken place for over a year (time of writing).



On a visual inspection of the area I found two more flower beds on Buckshaw Hall Close nearing completion.

Thanks have to go to the Scouts and Councillors who

attended to "dig in" the mound of top soil left on a dark cold evening.

I look forward to seeing the beds in full bloom as they will bring color back into the community rather than gloomy browns and greens provided by the over populated trees and shrubs

Councillor Rod Fraser

Beavers Space Activity

The Beaver group took a trip to Alston observatory in April.

The Beavers achieved their Space activity badge and had them presented to them in front of a telescope aged over 120 years old.



Also in April we took the Beavers up to Waddecarr scout activity centre for a "I'm a Beaver get me out of here" event. All the Beavers had a fantastic time and really enjoyed it. They took part in all sorts of activities including climbing on the outdoor wall, den building, relay races and lots more!!!

In the coming weeks we have lots planned.

We are visiting Tesco for a "farm to fork" tour learning about where our food comes from and how it's prepared.

We will also be celebrating our 1st birthday in May!!! Has it really been a year already.

All the Beavers are looking forward to attending the overnight County led camp out!! which will be a fantastic experience for them all.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all the parents and helpers for there continued support without which we would not be able to run the group.

If you would like to join the Beavers or would like any further information please contact me Craig Rivers 07921068956.

Craig Rivers

Astley Village Beaver Scouts





Astley Park WI was instigated in 1984 by a band of ladies led by Pat Pearson who wanted to provide somewhere to meet old friends, make new ones, listen to interesting speakers, 'dabble' in various crafts, visit Stately Homes, Museums, Theatres etc.

Plans were put in place, a Committee formed and Astley Park WI was up and running with much enthusiasm.

Over the years we have had demonstrations of cheese Making, Flower arranging and Origami to name but a few, and at Christmas we excelled ourselves by making Snowmen out of socks!

We have a monthly competition for the best entrant to provide an object relevant to the theme of the speaker, and the overall winner for the year is presented with a gift.

2015 being the 100th Anniversary of the National Federation of the WI and also our own 30th Anniversary, we have planted a Magnolia tree in Astley Village to commemorate both occasions on May 9th.

We are always happy to welcome new members.

Euxton Girls' Need You!

We are currently recruiting girls to join us at our football club. If your daughter is interested in playing football please bring them along to the following training sessions for their age group where our coaches will be happy to help you.

Development squad ages 5-9 yrs Saturday morning 11 - 12am at BV

Under 10 - Tuesday 6-7pm at BV

Under 11 - Tuesday 6-7pm at BV

Under 12 West - Monday 5-6pm at BV

Under 12 North - Wednesday 6-7pm at BV

Under 13 - Wednesday 6-7pm at BV

Under 14 - Friday 6-7pm at BV

Under 14 - Friday 6-7pm at BV

Under 15 - Friday 6-7pm at BV

Under 16 - Friday 7-8pm Bat BV

Under 18 - Wednesday 7-8pm at BV



Buckshaw astro turf, Old Worden Avenue, Buckshaw Village PR7 7DG
Greenside Playing Fields, Euxton PR7 6BL

Local Police

'Hello Astley Village!

My name is PC Mick Payne and I am the CBM for Buckshaw Village and Astley Village. I work along side PCSO Chris O'Lone and PCSO Vicki Green.



Astley Village overall has a low crime rate and reports of Anti Social behaviour have reduced over the past few months. I want to make sure residents take reasonable steps to prevent becoming a victim of crime, simple crime prevention can make all the difference.

Car crime is often thought to be committed by sophisticated high-tech criminals. In reality most of the crimes are opportunistic. The thieves simply wander around looking for any item left on show or a vehicle that's been left unlocked.

- Always keep your vehicle locked (including closing windows) even if you only leave it for a few minutes.
- If you can take your belongings with you rather than leaving in the car.
- Don't leave keys in a coat pocket and leave the coat unattended, be aware of dropping keys into bags or briefcases where they might remain visible.
- Most importantly LOCK YOUR VEHICLE! Double check it if your unsure.

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

Neighbourhood Officer Work

Chorley Council Neighbourhood Officers deal with many local issues such as Stray Dogs, Dog fouling, issuing tickets for littering and dog fouling, arrange dog chipping, fly tipping and much more.

Officers provide a service and you can call them on Chorley 515151 to report items. In the last year Officers have dealt with 274 stray dogs and issued 88 dog fouling tickets since the 1st January, across Chorley.

The Team has arranged a Dog Seminar on Saturday 27 June at 2pm to be held at Eaves Green Community Centre on how to recognise aggressive body language from dogs and what you can do about it. You can also learn emergency first aid for your dog should he/she be in a fight.

Tammy Finlayson
Neighbourhood Officer



Free Dog Micro-Chipping

The chipping is done by the Chorley Council Animal Welfare Officer.

Future event:

Friday 10th July at
Clayton Brook Village
Hall 11am-1pm



Looking to **CURB** your heating bills?



Chorley Council has joined forces with Unify Credit Union, Rheingold Insulation and Baxi to help you replace your old boiler with a new energy efficient one.

Here's how it works...

- C** Chorley Council is backing the whole scheme
- U** Unify Credit Union can offer you a low-rate loan to pay for it
- R** Rheingold Insulation will fit it and offer a 10-year warranty
- B** Baxi will supply you with a new boiler for your home

For more details please call Unify Credit Union on 01257 341880 or call in to see us at 20 Market Street, Chorley to discuss further.

Chorley
Council

Unify
Credit Union

RHEINGOLD
HEATING

BAXI

Are you **paying too much** for your gas and electricity bills?

Does your energy supplier have you on the best and **cheapest tariff** for you?

Chorley Council has launched an independent energy switch service which can help you find out...

Our service will:

- ✓ Search Ofgem approved comparison websites
- ✓ Identify the best deal for you based on the energy you use
- ✓ We'll help you through the process, if you choose to switch to another supplier
- ✓ and we'll deal with any 'aftercare' issues should any arise

This service is available **FREE** to all energy bill payers - whether you are a home owner or whether you rent.

To book an appointment or to find out more, please call us on:

01257 515151

or visit the website:

chorley.gov.uk
and search 'energy efficiency'

Then just bring your bills and we'll do the rest.



Quality care and companionship in the comfort of your own home



FREE FOUR HOUR TRIAL

- A free four hour trial of our services
- Companionship, transport to appointments, personal care, respite care, overnight support etc
- Pleasant carers we would happily employ for our own family
- A consistent group of carers
- Friendly helpful office team
- Flexible care which can be changed at short notice
- Specialists in neurological conditions such as Alzheimers and Parkinsons
- Clear pricing at the outset and no deductions for travel
- References from customers throughout Chorley available



Right at Home
In Home Care & Assistance

01257 696 050

or visit www.rightathomeUK.com

Registered with the Care Quality Commission. Each Right at Home office is independently owned and operated.

Friends of Astley Park

Friends of Astley Park is a small voluntary organisation whose members share a common and passionate desire that this green and varied space of the Park is protected and maintained both for its heritage and for the wildlife and natural habitat that it provides.

If you like to help the group with their volunteering days, here are some dates. Events meet Saturday's 9.30 am in the Coachhouse Courtyard:

Balsam Bashing - 20 June, 11 July, 8 August

River Clearing - 27 June, 25 July, 22 August, 26 September,

31 October, 28 November

Sensory Garden tending - 23 May

More details available from

www.friendsofastleypark.com

Meals on Wheels

MAKING IT HAPPIER IN Chorley

We're running a subsidised service in the borough of Chorley.

- Meals delivered to your table
- Subsidised meals cost just £3.85 for a main meal and a dessert
- Available up to three times per week
- Help with meal-related tasks
- Ideal for carers' breaks

If you or someone you know would benefit from this service contact:
Lancashire Fire
on 01257 367800

 Working in partnership with 



NUMARK+

Your local community pharmacy

Astley Village Pharmacy

www.latifpharmacy.co.uk

Prescription Collection & Delivery Service

REPEAT PRESCRIPTION ORDERING

Repeat Prescriptions

Sign-Up, Order, Collect!



Online Shopping

Medicines, Beauty, Toiletries



Health Advice

Download Advice Leaflets



Astley Village Pharmacy, Unit 5 Hallgate, Astley Village, Chorley PR7 1XA
Tel: 01257 234220
Email: astley@numarknet.com

Opening Times
Monday-Friday: 9.00am - 5.30pm
(closed for lunch 1.00pm - 1.30pm)

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