

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 33, Winter 2014



## Season's Greetings from Astley Village Parish Councillors

We have pleasure in presenting our new style  
newsletter, we hope you like it

[WWW.AVPC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.AVPC.ORG.UK)

# Chairman's Message

It has been a lovely summer and a glorious autumn in Astley Village with lots of activity in Astley Park. Some of you may have attended "Picnic in the Park" or the summer theatrical performances and more recently Halloween/Bonfire Night and the Derian House "Sparkle". All of these events have been very successful and enjoyable but have sometimes caused parking problems in the village when the parking plan, Parish Councillors agreed with Chorley, has not been followed. Consequently the Parish Council will continue to press Chorley Council, to make the implementation of the parking plan, a condition of use when seeking permission to use the park for events. Our park is an asset we want to see used but consideration must be given to the safety and well being of Astley Village residents as well.

Residents will be aware of the work that has been ongoing around the community centre. The Parish Council has worked in conjunction with Chorley Council, who granted additional funding for this neighbourhood project and the Parish Council has made a contribution to the fencing and the new notice board (See article pg4).



Residents of Ravensthorpe and users of the bus stop close to Ravensthorpe will have noticed that the seat that was set in the grass, has been moved to face the direction the buses come from and to enable users to keep their feet dry. Bus stop users at Great

Meadow also have a new seat provided by the Parish Council and a new planter has been placed on Chancery Road opposite the entrance to Broadfields.

Many of you will have seen the wonderful flower meadow, near to the walled garden in Astley Park, which was planted by Chorley Council, along with the Friends of Astley Park and Buckshaw Primary School. Well done to all involved, it was lovely! (See pg 6) The Parish Council are investigating developing a similar display on Chancery Road.

As the weather turns colder we begin to look forward to Christmas. Soon our living Christmas tree will be lit and all residents are invited to join the Parish Councillors for carols followed by refreshments in the community centre (See back page).

May I wish all readers the best for Christmas and the New Year.

**Councillor Laura Lennox**  
Parish Council Chairman



## Helping hand...



The Beavers and Cubs based at Buckshaw Primary School asked for a start up grant from the Parish Council. Activities for children and young people is something the Parish Council is happy to support, so it was a pleasure to visit them and present the cheque from our grants fund. The group are soon to start a new Scout troop in the school hall. Parish Councillors wish them well.

**Cllr Laura Lennox**  
Chairman

## The Pony Club/Derian House field

Some readers may have received information about the use of the field next to Derian House which I believe is misleading.

As Chair of the Parish Council I wish to make it clear that I have not tried to stop Astley and Buckshaw Juniors from using this field. I and others members of the Neighbourhood Working Group have questioned the irregular route used to apply for a long term lease, that is all.

Following concerns raised by residents about parking issues along this stretch of Chancery Road, the Parish Council discussed this matter at its meeting on Nov. 5th.

We agreed that increasing the number of pitches and matches on this site will add to the problems residents already experience and could lead to an accident if better parking arrangements cannot be found.

The Rugby Club is soon to be redeveloped, providing pitches that will be available for the community to use and parking is part of the plan.

Astley and Buckshaw Juniors already have a lease on the field behind Buckshaw Primary school in Astley Village and use pitches in Buckshaw Village. Perhaps with some careful planning better use could be made of these facilities and residents at this end of the village could be spared further parking hassle on Chancery Road and surrounding roads.

As this is not a decision for the Parish Council, we await the result of negotiations between the club and Chorley Council.

**Cllr Laura Lennox**  
Chairman

# Neighbourhood Working

Although "neighbourhood working" with Chorley Council has been going on for some years now, the recent project around the community centre has been the biggest and most dramatic. The area has not been well maintained for many years and the 1970's design had been degraded so much that everyone seemed to have given up on it. The Parish Council proposed this project, which involved not only the two councils but also Places for People housing association. The first stage was reducing the hedge to the



rear of the centre and removing a pair of trees that were overhanging the community centre roof. Then the brick and block flower beds were removed and new ornamental fencing installed along with a completely new tarmac surface. The project has far exceeded the normal neighbourhood budget but with pressure from Cllr Matt Lynch and the agreement of Cllr Bev Murray of Chorley Council, the funds have been found and the Parish Council have agreed to pay for a new notice board and additional fencing.

Places for People have agreed to try and do something about the wall at the side of the pharmacy which looks such a mess. When the project is finally finished I am sure everyone will agree that this has been an effective example of cooperation between several organisations which has resulted in a pleasant public space in our village.

**Councillor Laura Lennox**  
Chairman

## Baron's Rest

Geraldine would like to welcome  
all new and old customers to the  
newly refurbished  
Baron's Rest Public House

Come along and say hello.  
Family friendly, great atmosphere.

Monday's Pool  
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Opening times:  
Mon to Thursday 2 pm to 11 pm  
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Sunday 12 noon to 11 pm

Baron's Rest, Hallgate  
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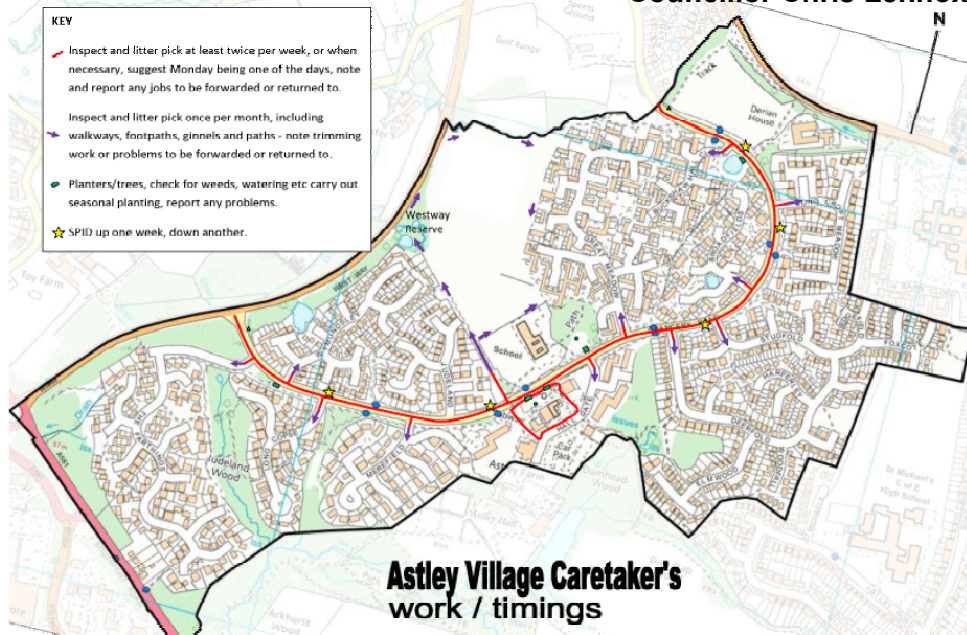
# Village Caretakers

The Parish Council employs 2 caretakers to promote a clean, tidy and safe village environment. Their works focuses on Chancery Road and every week they litter pick, inspect and tidy up. They also undertake seasonal planting and planter maintenance and re-position the Speed Indicator Device . Each month they inspect and litter pick all other roads and footpaths/ginnels across the Village, including the Westway Community Nature Reserve. They

report damage, rubbish/graffiti, unsafe trees and other areas of concern so that partner organisations such as Chorley and Lancashire Councils or Places for People can undertake work they are responsible for.

The map below shows where and when their work is carried out. Residents may approach either the caretakers or contact the Clerk if they wish to request any tasks to be undertaken.

**Councillor Chris Lennox**



## New seat, and planter

The Parish Council has installed a new seat at the bus stop closest to Great Meadow and a new planter opposite the junction to Broadfields.





# Wildflower Meadow

The Wildflower Meadow beside the Walled Garden in Astley Park has been a stunning success.



Congratulations to the children from Buckshaw Primary School who were involved in the planting.



Chorley Council's displays this year earned them a well deserved Silver award in Britain in Bloom and the Wildflower Meadow was part of a special award for pollination.

**Councillor Chris Lennox**

## May 2015 Election

Thursday, 7th May 2015 will be election day, not only a General Election, to elect the next Government in Westminster, but local elections too.

You will be asked to vote for one of your Chorley Borough Councillor seats and all of your Astley Village Parish Councillor seats.

If you wish to be a Parish Councillor you will need to fill out nomination papers, which are available from the Elections office at Chorley Council nearer the time. A notice of election will be posted on the Parish Council notice boards, and on the website on or around the 2 April 2015.

If you can't wait until then, see our advert for a Parish Councillor vacancy available now, on page 11.



# Village Development Plan

The Parish Council has moved from a 2 year plan to a rolling Village Development Plan. The table sets out projects within the current plan and includes projects already undertaken.

The Council is working with Chorley and a range of other organisations to make improvements to the appearance of the Village and to develop local community activities. Residents are invited to submit their suggestions to the Clerk for any additions or new projects they would like to see undertaken in the Village.

**Councillor Chris Lennox**

Projects	Actions	Timing
Improve Village centre	Working with Chorley Council and Places for People as part of a Neighbourhood Project. Raised beds have been removed, new fencing and tarmac area installed and a notice board will be added.	2014/5
Gateway to Astley Park	Work with Chorley to improve the approach to the park	2015/6
Planters & seats around the Village	5 planters and 2 seats provided; Ravensthorpe seat relocated. Village Green project with plan & rockery plus oak tree and 2 benches.	2013/4
		2011/12
Entrances to Village	2 planters to replace rockeries	2013
Tree planting	Plant more trees on wet verge areas to soak up excess water	2015/6
Village caretaker services	Focus on Chancery Road and entrances to roads off & footpaths - inspection, litter picking & tidying. Seasonal planting.	From 2014
Wildflower area	Work with Chorley to establish a wildflower area at the end of The Farthings	2015
Parking	Work with Chorley to resolve parking issues for events in Astley Park. Consider anti-parking devices to alleviate problems on Chancery Road.	2014/6
New lighting scheme for the Christmas Tree	Once the living Christmas Tree has grown to create a lighting scheme at its base.	Pending
Litter bins	Work with Chorley to replace dog bins with litter bins	2015
Activities for young people	Audit current activities for shortfalls; work with local organisations; provide grants (eg to new Scout group)	2014/6

## On the right path

Another long standing issue in the village has been successfully tackled; two sections of path around the underpass have now been resurfaced after residents highlighted the problem to Councillor Matthew Lynch.



Also in that locality the bench at the bus stop has been moved closer to the bus shelter and turned 90 Degrees, It now gives those residents who use public transport greater opportunity to use it.



Councillor Lynch said "I am delighted that we have managed to resolve the damage to the path around the underpass and the relocation of the bench is a common sense approach from the Parish council which Chorley Council were happy to undertake".

**Councillor Matthew Lynch**

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**Opening Times**

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



## A bit of the Exotic in Astley!

While reading about Roman Britain I found that the Romans grew large amounts of Saffron, mainly in the south of England. I came to the conclusion that if they could do it then I would give it a try, global warming being an advantage here in the UK and longer summers convinced me that it would be worthwhile.

I read, and noted that the Saffron

crocus (*Crocus sativus*) liked dry well drained soil acid free and as much sun as possible. Quite a challenge as my garden is paved over however further reading said that pots would be fine. (Do not use plastic pots as I found they drained poorly and can rot the bulbs).

After studying as much as possible and finding a friendly supplier I purchased 50 bulbs (corms) from just outside Paris France. I planted 40 of the corms and gave 10 to a friend for his allotment as they had started sprouting and I managed to pot them in the second week of August, and within 6 weeks they flowered and produced saffron, so much so I harvested 0.9 grams from 120 flower heads. The quality being far superior to the Spanish brand as supplied to UK supermarkets



and with a monetary value of approximately £40.00 per gram.

The growing cost from bulbs to Saffron was approximately £20.00 and with the bulbs (corms) needing human intervention to multiply i.e. dug up and divided should reproduce up to 10 cormlets making further future purchases unnecessary. I am now enjoying Saffron tea sweetened with honey, along with homemade saffron flavored biscuits and would recommend that every gardener give it a try.

**Councillor Rod Fraser**

### **KARATE CLASSES IN A FAMILY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT**

**Every Thursday, 7.30 pm to 9 pm at  
Astley Village Community Centre**

We teach traditional martial art of self defence which develops co-ordination, suppleness, self discipline, respect and confidence.

Classes are suitable for children and adults.

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**Master D Bolton 5th Dan**  
[www.phoenixtangsoodo.com](http://www.phoenixtangsoodo.com)

## Community Growing Scheme

Places for People and Rock FM are sponsoring a community growing scheme for Astley Village residents. The objective is encourage residents to get together and grow their own food. Three of your parish councillors have been involved in choosing a site and the children from Buckshaw Primary school and local secondary schools have been consulted about what should be grown. The young people have also produced pieces to promote the project on Rock FM.

A number of potential sites were examined. A large derelict flower bed on Great Meadow was finally chosen as the best site. On 12th November a group of Places for People staff and volunteers from the army cadets cleared the bed and dug in a load of compost and manure. Hopefully by the time you read this the first planting will have taken place.

If you would like to get involved please contact Caroline at Rock FM on 01772 2477700.

**Councillor Ian Handley**

## Local Police

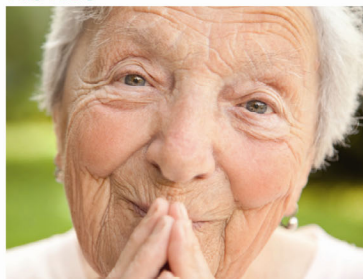
Astley Village and Buckshaw Village neighbourhood policing team:

CBM PC Mike Payne,  
PCSO Chris O'Lone,  
PCSO Wade Brown,  
PCSO Vicki Cochrane

Telephone: **101** or  
01257 269021 / 246225  
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

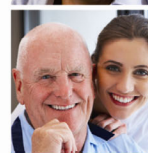
PACT Meetings are 7pm to 8pm at Ravensthorpe on: 17 December 2014.  
2015 dates: 28 January, 11 March, 22 April, 3 June, 15 July, 26 August, 7 October, 18 November, 30 December.

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## Council Info

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

**7 January, 4 March, 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 near to the shops.

## Councillor Vacancy

Currently there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor which arose from a resignation. If you are interested in serving as a Councillor, write to the Clerk giving details of interests, experience and reasons for wishing to serve.

The Council's website has more details on being a Councillor, eligibility criteria, procedures etc.

## How to contact the Council

Council Clerk, Mrs Debra Platt



9 Ambleside Avenue  
Euxton, PR7 6NX



Tel. 01257 234004



astleyvpc@btinternet.com

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

[www.avpc.org.uk](http://www.avpc.org.uk)

## Astley Village Parish Councillors

### Chairman

Cllr Laura Lennox  
Judeland  
Tel: 260264

### Vice Chairman

Cllr Rod Fraser  
Great Meadow  
Tel: 07926 848426

Cllr Ian Handley  
Broadfields  
Tel: 410004

Cllr Mike Handley  
Browns Hey  
Tel: 275228

Cllr Chris Lennox  
Judeland  
Tel: 260264

Cllr Matthew Lynch  
Buckshaw Hall Close  
Tel: 410257

Cllr John Nuttall  
Great Meadow  
Tel: 234552

Cllr Keith Robinson  
Long Croft Meadow  
Tel: 278686

Cllr Eric Williams  
Ravensthorpe  
Tel: 369451



# CAROL SINGING

## by the Christmas Tree

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 Chorley Silver Band and afterwards, Astley Village Parish Council would like to invite 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 the warm drinks and mince pies to residents.

Everyone is welcome to come to sing along with the Christmas carols, song sheets are supplied.

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