

Newsletter

Issue 34, Winter 2015



Photograph courtesy of Councillor Allan Bridge

www.avpc.org.uk

Chairman's Message

The new Parish Council was elected unopposed in May. At the AGM vacancies were filled by co-option. The full list of councillors can be found on page 15.

Although the summer weather has been far from outstanding the events in Astley Park including the Chorley Flower Show, have been well attended and in the main, car parking has not been too much of an issue in the village.

However the main topic of discussion in the village has been the changes to the bus service! At the September meeting of the Parish Council, representatives of Stagecoach were invited to come and explain why the half-hourly bus service had not been restored after the work to railway bridges in Chorley had been completed. Councillors were pleased to hear that the service was soon to be restored and would run between Chorley and Preston. However we were surprised to discover that the service would no longer run along Southport Road and would also run along the school side of the road for both journeys!

Councillors expressed concern that residents would not be able to get to the three doctor's surgeries at Library House, Regent House or Collison Ave. This is a significant issue for many residents in Astley Village. Concerns were also raised about access to Tesco and Parklands High School.

Having now used the bus service I can confirm that residents concerns are well founded. The journey into Chorley takes much longer and can soon become

overcrowded because Eaves Lane residents and Astley Village residents have no alternative but to use the same small buses.

The Parish Council will continue to make representations on this issue. The changes to the bus service have also somewhat undermined the Parish Council's work to install seats at all the bus stops or get existing seats refurbished! We have decided to wait until the new service is established before spending your money on having seats relocated or ordering new seats. At present it also seems that these changes could leave us with redundant bus shelters and lay-byes too! See timetable on page 7.



Parish Councillors were invited to attend the opening of Chorley Heritage Society's exhibition in Astley Farmhouse in September. It is particularly interesting for Astley Village residents because it outlines the history of the Park from earliest times to the development of Astley Village. If you have not seen it yet I would recommend a visit.

As the days shorten and Christmas approaches you are once again invited to join the Parish Council for carol singing and festive refreshments at the community centre (see back page for details).

As Chair of the Parish Council, I would like to wish all residents, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Laura Lennox
Chairman

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

PROJECTS	ACTIONS	TIMESCALES
Improve Village centre	Work with Chorley, Places for People and shop leaseholder as part of a Neighbourhood Working project. Ensure improvements are maintained. Ask for other ideas from residents.	2015/17
Planters & seats around the Village	Flowers planters to improve the village, seats for people to sit on whilst walking around the village or at bus waiting areas. Replace existing wooden seating with the new style recycled ones. Plaques for new seats and planters. Review any resident suggestions for sites or replacement wood seats.	2015/17
Tree planting	Plant more trees on wet verge areas to soak up excess water. Copper beech suggested.	2015/16
Wildflower area	Work with Chorley to establish a wildflower area at the end of The Farthings	2015/16
New lighting scheme for the Christmas Tree	Once the living Christmas Tree has grown to create a lighting scheme at its base.	2015/16
Litter bins	Work with Chorley to replace dog bins with litter bins	2015/16
Activities for young people	Encourage activities and groups in the Village; provide grants	2015/17

The Parish Council has drawn up a Village Development Plan covering the 2 year period 2015 to 2017. The table sets out projects within the Plan.

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.

This plan will inform the budget process for next year, so to ensure your suggestions are included please respond before the end of December.

CLlr Chris Lennox

FROM THE FRIENDS OF ASTLEY PARK

We have had a busy year ensuring the planters in Cafe Ambio courtyard are well watered and tending the recently planted Sensory Garden near the Queen's Road car park.



You may have seen us, on the odd Saturday morning, working in the river, litter picking or removing self seeded beech saplings to create more light for the river. With the help from pupils from St Laurence CofE School and the Geo Cashers we have continued our efforts to rid the park of Himalayan Balsam, and, although we have managed to clear many areas, much remains. Sometimes it feels like a hopeless task.

Very soon bat boxes will be attached to some trees in the park. We would like to thank the teachers and pupils from both Southlands and St Michael's for putting them together for us. Thanks also to Steve Holgate who gave us the money from his LCC grant to enable us to purchase the timber and necessary materials.

This autumn pupils from Buckshaw Primary School will collect acorns and pot them, using materials provided by the Friends through a grant. When bigger the oak saplings will be planted in the park.

Finally, work is about to start on the construction of a reed bed where the river Chor enters the park, the aim being to improve water quality. This is a joint project involving The Friends, CBC and the Environment Agency.

The Friends of Astley Park will be ten years old very soon and many of its members have been involved since its formation. But there is always so much to do and new members are always welcome, whatever their capabilities and interests. We really enjoy the work that we do, working with CBC to make the park the beautiful place that it is and something that Chorley can rightly be proud of.

So, if you would like to join us have a look at our website, which will give you more information, or contact me on 01257 271507 or Keith on 01257 278686. www.friendsofastleypark.com

Barbara Houghton
Secretary

CELEBRATORY YEAR

2015 marked the Centenary of the Women's Institute Movement, in the presence of Her majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family at the Royal Albert Hall.

2015 has been an eventful year for Astley Park WI, especially events to celebrate 100 years of the Women's Institute Movement, and our own Institute's 30th Anniversary.

We have had many varied and interesting Speakers - the History of Booths, started in 1875 by James Booth, the Life of George Formby, the work of the Air Ambulance Service, demonstrations - how to pack 60 items in a carry on suitcase made up by mixing and matching garments, how to paint on pottery using tissue paper - to name but a few, plus various outings.

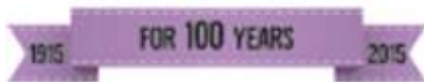
To commemorate the occasions we planted a Magnolia tree by the Community Centre attended by the Mayor and her Consort see photos of the event below.

To mark our 30th Anniversary we celebrated with wine and cake made by Anne Rivers, each member received a coaster printed with the important and memorable dates to commemorate the occasion.

Sadly we lost a Founder Member - Pat Pearson who will be remembered for her enthusiasm in all matters relating to the Women's Institute.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, why not come along and join us?

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Barbara Robinson

President

01257 268313



DERIAN HOUSE HAS A NEW PLAYGROUND

Derian House's special new playground is a really exciting development for the hospice, and is their first major building project in five years. The playground is one of very few in the North West where children with life-threatening conditions and their able-bodied siblings can play on the same equipment, thus enabling the whole family to play together.

It's been made possible by our friends at AO.com, who recently undertook a gruelling 600-mile cycle ride from their new German operation in Heppendorf, near Cologne, to their UK head office in Bolton to raise funds for the venture. They raised over £35,000 in sponsorship, which the AO Smile Foundation then match funded, meaning Derian House received over £70,000 from AO.



The children's park includes wheelchair-friendly roundabouts and swings and even a bespoke 'Hobbit House', all of which can also be used by their brothers and sisters as well as children cared for at Derian.

Georgina Cox, Derian House Chief Executive Officer said: "This amazing new facility is already making a huge difference to the lives of our families. Many of the children we look after who have life-shortening conditions also have a brother or sister, and there are not many places their parents can take them where they can play together. We are so grateful to the AO Smile Foundation and the staff who cycled such a long way to allow this to happen."

Explained AO's Chief Operating Officer, Steve Caunce: "The team here strongly believes in the fantastic work the hospice undertakes to support children and families across the North West, in the most difficult of circumstances. We are thrilled to have been involved in the build of a truly life-changing children's park in the North West. Twenty of our staff have undertaken one of the toughest, yet most exhilarating challenges of their lives. They have trained for months, undertaking weekly group training rides around Rivington."



ASTLEY VILLAGE'S BUS SERVICE

From the 18th October, Stagecoach introduced a new bus service and timetable for the village. The Services 1, 1B, 2, 2A Chorley Hospital - Chorley - Coppull were replaced by...

109A Chorley - Brooke Street - Eaves Lane - Harpers Lane - Chorley & South Ribble Hospital - Astley Village - Buckshaw - Leyland - Preston



Stagecoach said, "The **109A Service** will provide much improved coverage of the expanding Buckshaw Village development, operating from the top of Central Avenue, via Old Worden Avenue, The Hub, Tesco, Buckshaw Parkway Rail Station, Euxton Lane, Astley Village, Chorley & South Ribble Hospital grounds, Harpers Lane, Eaves Lane, Brook Street and Chorley Interchange. This provides new links from the Eaves Lane area and Astley Village direct to both Leyland and Preston! In Astley Village, buses will always operate an anti-clockwise loop, running northbound up Chancery Road for customers wanting either the Preston or Chorley bound buses. The direction of travel will clearly be shown on the front of the bus."

The 109A Bus operates every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytimes between Preston and Chorley and every hour in the evenings and Sundays between Chorley and Astley Village only.

Since the introduction of this new timetable, the Parish Council has received contacts about problems such as delays, full buses, not being able to access the Doctors, Schools and Tesco and has written to Stagecoach to ask them to rectify these.

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225 Eaves Lane, Chorley, PR6 0AG

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CHORLEY FLOWER SHOW

The spectacular Chorley Flower Show, organised by Chorley Council, will be back by popular demand, to take place on Saturday and Sunday 30 and 31 July 2016.

Plans are already well underway to bring back some of the best exhibitors from across the country after the success of the first ever Chorley Flower Show, which attracted 10,000 people to Astley Park.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Leader of Chorley Council, said: "We've been overwhelmed with the positive feedback about our first ever flower show so we wanted to set the dates for next year as soon as we could. There are already plenty of ideas of how we can grow and improve the show to really cement its place as one of Lancashire's main summer attractions for visitors to the region, so watch out for more announcements in the coming weeks and months."

Exhibitors and traders interested in taking part in next year's show are being urged to get them in as soon as they can. New elements for 2016 will include introducing show gardens to complement Chorley's award-winning RHS Chelsea Flower Show exhibit 'The Evaders' Garden' and increasing the variety of horticultural stands in the vicinity of Astley Hall.

If you've not booked your summer holidays next year make sure you keep the weekend free as it promises to be another fantastic event to put Chorley in the spotlight again.

More information on next year's Chorley Flower Show at chorley.gov.uk or call 01257 515151.



THE EVADERS GARDEN

An amazing story of selfless bravery that began in 1943 involving an injured RAF navigator and a courageous group of French people has captured the nation's attention with Chorley Council winning a silver gilt with its first ever exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



Visitors to the world's most prestigious horticultural show were amazed by the story behind the garden saying, 'It's the best thing I've seen at Chelsea', 'Of all the exhibits this is the only one that makes you emotional' and 'I've never seen anything like it'.

Photograph courtesy of Councillor Allan Bridge, as shown on the front cover

Chorley Council commissioned award-winning Chorley designer John Everiss to tell the tale of his father's amazing story when he beat the odds after being shot down over enemy lines during the Second World War.

John's design, 'The Evaders Garden', is formed to illustrate the bond between helper and evader in worn-torn France. His landscape features a unique sculpture of a young flyer, hiding up against the wall of a war-ravaged church.

A specially commissioned stained-glass window features two young French people, hands out-stretched to help, and steps leading out from the church suggesting the airman's eventual escape route.

"It's fantastic to have people talking about Chorley and we've been speaking to hundreds of people telling them where we are and what we have to offer," said Councillor Bradley of Chorley Council. "The garden came back to Astley Park in August in time for the new Chorley Flower Show and will also be a permanent feature attracting visitors to the town."

"It is also a poignant reminder of the sacrifices people made during the Second World War and will be a fitting tribute during the 70th anniversary year."

Read the full story of the Navigator Stan Everiss and 'The Evaders Garden' on Chorley Council's website.

CHORLEY HERITAGE EXHIBITION

The Chorley Heritage Centre Group is currently holding its latest exhibition, on the upper floor in the Astley Farmhouse.

The Mayor of Chorley, Councillor Marion Lowe, opened the event on the 4th September 2015, which is centred on the past life of Astley farm, the Farmhouse, and the people who lived there; the Clitheroe family, and we were fortunate to have several members of the Clitheroe family present at the opening of the exhibition.

Also featured, is the discovery of a Bronze Age burial urn, found close to the Farmhouse during the construction works for the development of Astley Village; the site of the discovery, was approximately where the "Barons Rest" pub is situated.

Go and see the display and learn something about **"The Day the Farmhouse came to Life"**. The exhibition lasts until late January 2016, when the next display in the Farmhouse in February 2016 by the Heritage Group, will be a history of "Banks and Building Societies in Chorley" running until May 2016, but for one month only (February), a joint venture with a group from University of Central Lancs, who will concentrate on "The History of the Co-operative Movement in Chorley".

On the whole, a lot of History and Heritage of our area, on your doorstep.

Barry Lowe
Chorley Heritage Centre Group



SKYLARKS COMMUNITY CHOIR NETWORK



The Choir is an enriching and exciting project taking place across Lancashire. The first choir was originally set up in West Lancashire and now three years later, there are four “Skylark Community Choirs” running across Central Lancashire in Ormskirk, Preston, Chorley and Lostock Hall. There are over 250 people attending these choirs every week. Anyone who is a resident in the area where the choir is based is welcome to come along and join in. It is stressed that

the choirs are not about people’s ability to sing but about having a good time and enjoying music. The aim of our community choirs is to increase an overall sense of wellbeing and health, which contributes to the health and wellbeing of local communities.

The “Skylarks Community Choirs” have shown that singing brings people together and many new friendships have been formed. The Skylarks are not just regular community choirs. The ethos is one of inclusivity and we actively encourage and welcome everyone. We have a cross section of ages in the choirs as well as a number of younger people with learning difficulties. The sessions are fun, interactive, therapeutic and open to everyone. We aim to make singing and music accessible to all ages and abilities and to encourage people who think they can’t sing to come and join us.

The feedback from people attending the choirs has been extremely positive and the benefits gained are clearly evident in the growing numbers of people attending the groups on a weekly basis. It is difficult to express in words the impact these groups have had on peoples' lives but a few of the comments made are outlined below.

‘The best thing that could have happened to me. I have been ill for over a year, now I see some light at the end of the tunnel’

‘I feel lighter after the choir, energized, it has helped so much as I have been grieving for my deceased husband.’

‘I feel much happier since joining Skylarks and am enjoying life again’



‘I attend choir with a friend who has dementia, she looks forward to it so much and it is a pleasure to see the difference it makes to her. She lights up and knows all the words.’

‘Feel down or stressedthen come to Skylarks. You will leave with a joyful buzz in your heart and a thrill to keep on singing!’

‘Singing with the Skylarks lifts the spirits, increases the happiness and makes the sun shine again!’

These are just a few examples from hundreds! People attending the choirs have said that being part of a community choir has made a huge difference to their lives. Some of the benefits include improved mood, feeling more positive and spiritually uplifted, an increase in self confidence and well-being. The aim of our Community Choir is to increase an overall sense of wellbeing and health through music and singing!

The Choir meets every Thursday in November at Astley Coach House, Astley Park, from 10.30am to 11.30am. Contact Jane, Louise or Jacqui on 07538 580296.

UPDATE ON THE CHORLEY RUFC SITE, CHANCERY ROAD, EUXTON

Brookfields was operated by Chorley RUFC from 1978 until the 2014/2015 rugby season. The Chorley Community Trust (TCCT) owns the Freehold of the Brookfields site and, on completion, the site will be operated by the Trust wholly owned subsidiary company Phase One Sport and Leisure.



In common with most unsubsidised amateur single sport sites and facilities throughout the UK the financial challenge became too great. It was decided that a Multi-Sport Year Round Activity Development at Brookfields - funded by disposing of part of the site - was the only sensible and pragmatic solution to ensure the continuance of Brookfields as a leisure and community facility. Therefore, The Chorley Community Trust (TCCT) was formed to deliver it.

During the delivery of the development - TCCT will invest up to 4 million pounds at Brookfields. The approved development will comprise - on completion in late summer 2016 – the following:

A full size floodlit grass soccer/rugby pitch; A Full Size floodlit Artificial Grass soccer/rugby pitch which, as well as full size use for soccer and rugby, will also be pre marked to provide facilities for 5/7/10-a -side football and Walking Football for over 50's (as franchise operations), Car parking on a lit and barrier controlled car park, Contract Cleaning, Contract Facilities Management.

There will be a 2 storey Brookfields Pavilion (visual of Pavilion above) containing many facilities, some being; a number of dry and wet changing rooms, Physiotherapy Clinic, Sports Injuries clinic, Spectator seating for 350 overlooking grass pitch, Fitness Suite, Red Rose Function Suite seating 180 banqueting style and 200 lecture style, Red Rose Bar and lounge, Sprung Dance Floor, Twickenham Bar and Lounge, Catering Kitchen.

The Pavilion will be multi functional with sliding acoustic screens to make smaller or larger spaces which can be used for Seminars, Conferences, Training or Meeting rooms, classes such as Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, Tap Dancing etc, Social occasions.

Anthony J Callander JP

Chairman The Chorley Community Trust

Managing Director Phase One Sport and Leisure

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN (CAP) by Chorley Council

People in Astley Village want to see improvement in their local area and better outcomes for residents.

To help achieve this, a Community Action Plan (CAP) will be developed to identify priorities for improvement and set out how the community will work together, with support from other organisations, to deliver the plan.

A CAP is a medium to long term approach to improve the life of a community - so for Astley Village this is likely to be around improving opportunities for families and young people, increasing community cohesion and strengthening the commercial centre.

The plan will also include a number of short term actions to address any concerns that can be sorted out more quickly such as parking, traffic and other environmental improvements.

Astley Village will be one of four CAP areas across the borough to be delivered in partnership with the community and local organisations, complemented by Neighbourhood Working which will continue to deliver smaller improvement projects.



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Astley Village Pharmacy

www.latifpharmacy.co.uk

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Email@ astley@numarknet.com

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



LOCAL POLICE

Time seems to be marching on the summer months have passed, now were approaching the winter months. Crime is

still at a very low level in Astley Village however this doesn't mean we have a rest, we continue to assist our partner agencies and monitor the crimes as they come in and deal with them appropriately.

The neighbourhood team are always meeting with new people providing reassurance for their concerns or a simple word of advice is enough.

The team has changed over the last year, PCSO Chris O'lane has left and transferred to Communications, PCSO Vicky Green was successful in her application for the regulars and is now back at Chorley as a full police officer, be sure to wave if you see her. This has left Vicky Collins and myself to manage the area and we are still

committed in providing a quality service. PS 4057 Matt MOON joined us approx 6 months ago, PS Khan was promoted to Preston to be Immediate Response Inspector

As the dark nights are coming in please check all your outside security arrangements, there has been unwanted tampering of sheds in the past. Check that all your outside lights are working and if you need to contact us try the new updated Lancashire Police web page. If you're not subscribed to the "IN THE KNOW" police messaging service specifically lined to your area you can do it by following [link](http://www.lancashire.police.uk/intheknow)

www.lancashire.police.uk/intheknow or you can phone the office on Chorley 246225 to speak to us. PC 3252 Mike Payne and PCSO 7833 Vicky Collins.

PC 3252 Mike Payne

CBM Buckshaw/Astely Village
Chorley Police Station
Tel: 01257 246225

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Chorley Council in partnership Places for People are to hold a clean up day early 2016 on Wednesday 17th February 2016 9.30 am to 2.30pm and the skips will be located on Hallgate and Great Meadow to get rid of any unwanted household items.

Limited assistance available to help get bulky items to the skip, this must be arranged at least 3 working days in advance by calling 01257 515151.

Time credits will be issued to anyone who gets involved, from helping others get items to the skip or litter picking in the local area.



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:

**6 January, 2 March, 4 May, 6 July,
7 September, 2 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.

It is proving popular and is now mostly always full of events.

Send any notices in to the Council Clerk.

ASTLEY VILLAGE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman

CLlr Laura Lennox
Judeland, Tel: 260264

Vice Chairman

CLlr Keith Robinson
Long Croft Meadow, Tel: 278686

CLlr Tim Almond
The Farthings, Tel: 07747 017641

CLlr Allan Bridge
Cloughacre, Tel: 231338

CLlr Rod Fraser
Great Meadow, Tel: 07926 848426

CLlr Ian Handley
Broadfields, Tel: 410004

CLlr Douglas Hope
Great Meadow, Tel: 07787 747669

CLlr Chris Lennox
Judeland, Tel: 260264

CLlr Matthew Lynch
Buckshaw Hall Close, Tel: 410257

CLlr John McAndrew
The Farthings, Tel: 262914

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.

Carol Singing by the Christmas tree

Wednesday, 9th December, 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 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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