

# Newsletter

Issue 37, Winter 2016



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

# Chairman's Message

Welcome to the 2016 Autumn Newsletter.

Our bi-monthly meetings have continued to focus on the issues of concern raised by residents including parking overnight in the lay-by in front of school and long term parking in the main car park behind the shops. New parking restrictions have been introduced to cover the lay-by and Chorley Council are monitoring the car park. Parking associated with Derian House continues to be a cause of concern for residents on Buckshaw Hall Close and Long Croft Meadow as well as drivers using Chancery Road. The Parish Council will continue to lobby on this issue.

In the last edition of the Newsletter, I reported on the plans to link Dutch Barn Close, in the hospital grounds, with Edgefield. As expected the plans have not gone away and so a large number of residents, Councillors and Parish Councillors attended a 'consultation' in the hospital education centre in early October. The message was clear, that nobody wanted the problems related to hospital parking and traffic. We now await the expected planning application!

Plans for the redevelopment of the Rugby Club, which have featured in a previous edition of the Newsletter, have been amended and the Parish Council was consulted on the changes at a presentation during its' September meeting. When the development is completed Astley Village residents will have access to some of the best sports and social facilities in Chorley. The Westway playing fields will be improved and will include an all-weather sports pitch with

lighting, as well as improved access from Westway and parking for Astley Park events.

Our programme of providing, repairing and replacing seats at the bus stops has continued with two new seats provided over the summer. This follows the hard fought for restoration of our bus service on both sides of Chancery Road, which reinstated the bus stops.



However, residents and Councillors were shocked to find the seat at the bus stop close to Long Croft Meadow, was removed rather than repaired, as we requested! Hopefully the new seat we have ordered, will be in situ by the time you read this. Also, hopefully the rail down to the underpass from Ravensthorpe

area will be in place in time for any icy weather this winter. Chorley Council agreed to install this under the Neighbourhood Working programme, which is prioritised by Chorley and Parish Councillors.

Over the summer certain areas of the village centre and around the underpass have become neglected and Parish Council representatives have met with Chorley Council officers to ensure that the areas concerned are maintained on a routine basis.

Preparations have been made for our annual Carol singing event. The Parklands band has been booked, the Ladies from the WI have agreed to serve the mulled wine and mince pies and you are all invited to come along to the village Christmas tree on the 7th of December (see back page for details).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Astley Village Parish Council.

**Cllr Laura Lennox**  
Chairman

## VOLUNTEERING IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Lynch has set up volunteer litter picking dates for the village, which began in October and run through to March:

### **Volunteer litter picking events**

9.30 am to 11.00 am

Meet behind the community

centre on the car park

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> January

Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February

Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March



## DESTRUCTION OF HEDGES

This year some residents have cut through or removed boundary hedging along Chancery Road to replace garden fencing, create gateways or allow work to be done to their property. These hedges belong to Chorley Council and should not be touched without permission. Below is a statement from Chorley Council on this issue.

Many of the boundary hedges and trees in Astley Village are owned by Chorley Council. If you prune or remove Council hedges or trees without permission you could be subject to prosecution for criminal damage or damage to a protected tree. Please visit the Council's website, [www.chorley.gov.uk](http://www.chorley.gov.uk) and view the maps on line to check if the land is in Council ownership.

If it is, please contact the Council to discuss. It is your responsibility to seek permission of the landowner before undertaking any pruning work to hedges or trees.

**Jo Oliver**

Waste and Streetscene Manager



Susan Crook volunteer, lives on the village and likes to volunteer, Susan also did the 'Brave the Shave' for Cancer Research at the Last Orders in Chorley. Right: Cllr Matt Lynch



## PARKING ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints about car parking in various parts of the Village.

Following representations to Lancashire County Council restriction notices have now been placed at the lay-by outside the school. As the photograph shows, these limit parking at any time to three hours so this should prevent the overnight parking of lorries.

The Council has worked with the school to try and limit parking on the corner of Hallgate at the start and end of the school day. A-boards have been placed there and seem to have had some success in deterring parking in the most dangerous areas.



The Council will continue to monitor this in dialogue with the school.

The parking outside Derian House continues to affect Chancery Road, Buckshaw Hall Close and Long Croft Meadow - as the photograph shows.



The new developments at the Rugby Club will provide hospital parking and it is hoped that Derian House can also negotiate spaces there to take traffic off the roads.

**Cllr Chris Lennox**



## ASTLEY VILLAGE SCOUTS

What a busy time we have been having at Astley Village Scouts.

We have started a Scout section up now. This section is open to boys and girls aged 10 1/2 to 14. They meet on a Wednesday evening 7.30pm to 9pm.

Our Cub section is going from strength to strength. This section is again open to boys and girls aged 8 to 10 1/2. The Cubs meet on a Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.45pm.

Beavers is the youngest of the sections, they are aged 6-8. Again open to both boys and girls and meet on a Wednesday night 6.15pm to 7.15pm.

All sections are run out of Buckshaw Primary School.

If you would like your child to be part of a fantastic movement or yourself are willing to give a couple of hours a month (or anything), please get in touch with the details below.

So If you think you would like to come and give scouting a go. Please contact Craig Rivers (TicTac) on [astleyvillagescouts@gmail.com](mailto:astleyvillagescouts@gmail.com) or 07921068956.

**Craig Rivers**



On our last meeting before we broke up for October half term we had a fun filled evening with all 3 sections attending the same night and having an evening of fun games and activities, one of which was to try and get a rolo out of a bowl of flour using no hands.



We have been helping keep Astley Village Clean attending a council led litter pick on the first Saturday of October. With another booked in for



We have been camping quite a bit this year with many of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all being away between 3 and 6 nights. These pictures were taken at our summer group camp. We had quite a bit of rain but it didn't dampen the spirit of camping.

## BULB PLANTING

On a damp but sunny day in November a group of Councillors set out to plant the sack of daffodils donated to the Parish by Chorley Council.

Although the ground along Chancery Road can be very soft and wet, digging can be difficult due to years of mowing by heavy machinery.

The spot chosen at the end of The

Farthings was very wet but at least we could get the spade in the ground! Shortly after we finished there was a heavy downpour! We were lucky to miss a soaking.

We hope that after our efforts we will be rewarded with a colourful spring display.

**Cllr Laura Lennox, Chairman**



### CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

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#### 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 Ribbles area. Areas covered include:

<b>Chorley Borough</b> Adlington Astley Village Brinscall Buckshaw Village Charnock Richard Chorley Clayton-le-Woods Coppull Croston Eccleston Euxton Heath Charnock Mawdsley	Wheelton Whittle-le-Woods Withnell <b>South Ribbles</b> Bamber Bridge Leyland Farrington Houghton Hutton Lostock Hall Much Hoole New Longton Penwortham Walton-le-Dale
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#### 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.

#### 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.

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

## ASTLEY VILLAGE'S BUS SERVICE

Following concerns from residents and local councillors, Chorley Council with the support of MP Lindsay Hoyle, managed to secure an agreement with Lancashire County Council in March to fund the evening and Sunday 109A bus service through Astley Village.



Agreement has now been reached between Chorley and Lancashire to extend the current arrangements for a further six months. The 109A service will be jointly funded by Chorley Council (70%) and LCC (30%) under a single contract.

The Extended Agreement will ensure the routes continue to operate for the benefit of local residents, and will also allow for further exploration into more sustainable options for the future of these services.

Councillor Matthew Lynch said, "It is essential that residents of Astley Village have access to a bus service that works for them and provides those crucial links to local amenities such as Chorley Hospital, Tesco, Parklands Academy and the Town Centre. But residents must continue to use the service so we don't lose it in the future."

**Cllr Matthew Lynch**

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## FRIENDS OF ASTLEY PARK

2016 is nearing its end and it has been a very busy and rewarding year for us.

The reed bed is becoming established, along with the wetland wild flowers that we have planted around it. Native woodland trees and shrubs have also been planted on its slopes.



We would like to thank the teachers and pupils of Astley Park School who grew wild flowers for us. Sadly, though, some were destroyed as a result of mindless vandalism, but, thankfully, not all. So, in late summer, we planted 200 flowers of varying species by the sides of the woodland path in Great Wood. We are looking forward to the spring when, hopefully, they will grow and multiply and give pleasure to people for years to come.

A big thanks you, also, to Councillor Ralph Snape. With the help of a donation from his Council Grant we were able to purchase materials for 30 additional bat boxes and we would also like to thank the teachers and pupils from Parklands High School who constructed them in July. Members of our group have very recently erected these boxes in Dam Wood and Dogtrap Wood.



This year, in May and September, with the cooperation of the Council and The Merseyside and West Lancs Bat Group, we have organised evening bat walks. These proved to be very informative and enjoyable and we intend to organise more next year. You are most welcome to join us. By the way, did you know that 6 species of bats live in our park?

We enjoyed manning a stall at the Flower Show in July and were grateful for the many visitors who made donations to our funds.

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](http://www.friendsofastleypark.com) or contact Keith Woan on 01257 278759

**Barbara Houghton**



Park photographs courtesy of Councillor Allan Bridge

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Email@ [astley@numarknet.com](mailto:astley@numarknet.com)

**Opening Times**

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

## CHORLEY RUFC SITE AND WESTWAY SITES

Chorley Council is working with Chorley Community Trust to create a variety of facilities in Astley Village that will host sports throughout the year and support events that take place in nearby Astley Park.

Back in 2015, Chorley Community Trust, which owns the Chorley Rugby Union Football Club site off Chancery Road, had plans approved to build a two-storey pavilion with a seated stand, viewing balcony, fitness suite, changing rooms and function suite, along with floodlit grass and artificial pitches suitable for a range of sports.

Now, changes to these plans are being considered to also include an extension to the approved pavilion, a care home, reconfiguration of the artificial and grass pitches together with the proposals on the Chorley Council owned Westway site, to build two grass pitches, one artificial grass pitch with floodlighting and an event car park. The two developments are set to be linked with a footbridge over Euxton Brook that will allow users to access the facilities across the site. The Westway Scheme will create up to 400 events parking spaces to be used several times a year during major events to alleviate parking issues in and around Astley

Village while the events are taking place.

The authority had lots of useful feedback during and following a public and stakeholder consultation held over the summer.



Issues raised included concerns over additional noise and light pollution from the floodlit pitches, the potential for additional congestion on the local road network and the potential inclusion of athletics and cycling facilities.

The proposals are currently being revised to address comments raised during the public consultation. It is expected updated proposals will be published later this year with a view to a planning application being submitted later this year or in the new year.

**Simon Forster**  
**Parks and Open Spaces Officer**  
**Chorley Council**

## **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 2017 dates are:

**4 January, 1 March, 3 May, 5 July,  
6 September, 1 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 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

CLlr John Nuttall  
Great Meadow, Tel:

## **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, 7th 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 the warm drinks and mince pies to residents.

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