



Heron perched in a tree next to Buckshaw Pond

Origins of the Village

Westway Development

Restoration of Astley Hall

Council Chair's Report



At our Parish Council Meeting on 7 May 2021, annual appointments took place for Council positions, including membership of various Committees and Working Groups and the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council.

Laura Lennox had been Chair of the Parish Council for more years than anyone remembers and had been a focal point of contact for the village residents throughout her tenure. In addition Laura has held the positions of Chorley Borough Councillor, and Governor at Buckshaw Primary School and held many other Committee positions serving the Astley Village community. No doubt influenced by Covid over the past year and more, Laura decided that it was time to retire from the Parish Council, along with her husband Chris Lennox, also a Parish Councillor for many years. Both Laura and Chris have lived in the village for almost 40 years, they will both be greatly missed for their experience and hard work and for their combined energy and drive on the Parish Council; we wish them a very long and happy retirement.

During the early part of this year we co-opted Council Keith Ashton, resident of Long Croft Meadow, onto the Parish Council and more recently, Matt Lynch of Buckshaw Hall Close, returned to the Parish Council after a three year absence. We welcome both of them as their experience will be a great asset to us all.

Contact details of all the Parish Councillors are available on the AVPC website; www.avpc.org.uk

With the departure of Laura and Chris we now have vacancies on the Parish Council and we would welcome applications from village residents and others residing within 3 miles of the Parish boundary. We have a very active and dynamic group of Councillors and new and diverse blood will be most welcome. We meet formally as a Parish Council just six times in the year, bi-monthly, but our activities are daily 365. The Notice Boards at the Hallgate entrance and at the front of the Community Centre and our Website advertise the positions and to whom applications should be addressed (our Parish Clerk).

With all the above mentioned Parish Council Committees and Working Groups now appointed and re-energised we look forward to a summer without the current levels of Covid restrictions, as well as, hopefully, some warm summer weather.

Throughout the winter months and the first five months of 2021 the Parish Council has continued to push forward quite a number of initiatives including:

- Continuing to plant and replace lost trees. The Parish Council is working in tandem with Chorley Borough Council on an environmental initiative on 'Climate Change' and a 'Green Agenda,' supporting our commitment to become more carbon neutral. Most of our Parish Council efforts will focus on replacing trees that have been lost; in 2020 ten new trees were planted along Chancery Road and in 2021 a further 30 trees have now been planted, most of them filling the gaps left by the removal of dead trees.

- The Chancery Road Bus Shelters. By the time that this Newsletter is published most of us will have seen a complete refurbishment of the ten Bus Shelters along Chancery Road, which was long overdue. Again, the Parish Council has worked together with Chorley Borough Council to have the shelters, the seating, the waste bins and the surrounding base areas power washed and the shelters repainted.
- Also the two Gateway Signs at each end of Chancery Road are in the process of refurbishment along with the Notice Board at the junction of Chancery and Hallgate.
- A number of new Finger Posts are to be erected along Chancery giving visitors directions to Astley Park, the new West Way Sports Hub and the various walks around the village.

The new West Way Sports Hub is fast coming to fruition and we are proud to see that its location is within the Astley Village Parish. We have supported this enterprise from the outset and we look forward to it providing enormous sports opportunities to the residents of Astley Village as well as the whole of Chorley Borough. The Parish Council has agreed to fund a Children's 'Play Area' at the Sports Hub together with associated pedestrian footpaths.

Further projects are currently being discussed within the Parish Council, with the overall aim of continuing to improve the landscape and facilities in the village in which we all reside, making it a pleasure for us all to share and proud to be part of.

The Covid restrictions have been a major challenge to everyone and we'd like to think that those residents who are living alone or share mobility and other difficulties feel confident enough to ask their neighbours for a little support at this time. Many of the cul-de-sacs off Chancery have formed neighbourhood Facebook sites where they share each other's needs and requirements, including shopping services and more to those who need it. All of this helps to grow the Community spirit, which we hope will continue once the Covid restrictions that we have all suffered are just a memory.

During June 2021, we hope that a number of Covid restrictions will be eased, which hopefully will allow us to think about holidays, whether 'staycations,' or travels to warmer climes; whichever, most of us will be looking forward to book and partake in annual pilgrimage to our chosen resorts.

In addition to holidays, we will find that our favourite Pubs, Restaurants and Shops are reopening, including those on the village. These businesses have all suffered greatly during the Covid lockdown and as we all know well, some of the stores and major national chains have in fact closed down during the last 14 months and more.

The businesses on the village need our local support in order for them to get back to delivering their pre-Covid services.

In this Summer Edition of the Newsletter, as your Parish Council we would all like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful summer, whether it be at home, on staycation or on vacation overseas.

Astley Village Council Chair
Councillor Arnold Almond

Astley Village: Origins & History

There was a government proposal in the early 1960's for a 'Central Lancashire New Town' to accommodate Manchester's overspill population, based in and around the Chorley and Ecclestone area. This was later abandoned but then a new proposal was put forward in the late 1960's for a new town, this time based around Preston, Leyland, and Chorley.

The 'Central Lancashire New Town' was the largest of the post-war English new towns, designated in 1970, to be planned by the Central Lancashire Development Corporation (CLDC). It was tasked with the compulsory purchase of 35,000 acres of green land for development and building of new houses, amenities, and roads. Farmland belonging to Astley Hall Farm was purchased and a variety of local and national builders developed housing areas of different densities in what became Astley Village.

Ten years prior to this purchase, a discovery of pottery was made when a tree close to the farm was uprooted. The farmer collected the shards and a reconstruction of the pot confirmed that it was a 'Collared Urn', dating from the Bronze Age 2000B.C. The urn was about 18 inches tall and 15 inches in diameter.

When the land became available after the purchase in 1975, members of the Chorley Historical and Archeological Society and the West Lancashire Archeological society, together with assistance of the Lancashire Museums service, were granted permission to carry out an excavation near the tree roots. The excavation revealed a banked enclosure around the site, part of which had been disturbed by more modern building. They unearthed more pottery pieces connected with the original urn and also human cremated bones and a flint knife.

Altogether five more cremation burials and a further 'Collared Urn' containing bones, all females, were discovered. A small plaque, often unnoticed by passers-by, commemorates the site close, to the path leading from Hallgate car park towards the side of the barn cafe and tennis courts.

By June 1976, the building of Astley Park or Astley Village, as it became known, had proceeded and the first rented houses were officially opened. A time capsule was buried in the foundations of one of the "North British Housing" properties. The CLDC (abolished in 1986) pioneered shared ownership and witnessed the first transfer of social housing stock to a registered Housing Association.

Two years later in 1978, Astley Village was well developed, with houses, shops and a squash court building and restaurant (now Oliver House School) on the site of the former archeological Bronze Age excavation. Since then, Buckshaw Primary school and a pub/restaurant, originally called, "The Baron's Rest" - now the 'Astley Inn' were added. According to the 2011 census the village had a population of 3,005 people.

The layout of the village was planned with twelve housing developments leading off Chancery Road and a by-pass road, 'West Way' which was built between 1983-84. Looking at old maps, there was little in the way of buildings in the area, apart from the Hall, its out-buildings and Astley Hall farm. There used to be an old farm track leading north from the farm towards Euxton Brook House on Euxton Lane, but this does not correspond with any of the present-day roads.

Astley Village is built on the fields of the home farm of Astley Hall and the names of the

fields are preserved in the names of the roads, Merefield, Great Meadow, Long Croft Meadow and Broadfields. Long Copse, Harewood, Judeland, Deerfold and Studfold preserve the names of the woodlands and enclosures of the Astley estate. Foxcote and Woodmancote may refer to old structures.

Astley Village by definition, is a settlement, larger than a hamlet but smaller than a town. The word village is derived from the Latin 'villa' meaning a country dwelling with a farm and other surrounding houses.

Roads with the names containing:

'cote' denote a small house or hut.

'fold' denotes a staked-off pasture for keeping livestock.

'croft' denotes a small farm worked by a tenant.

In 1776, a record of a parish boundary walk, refers to "Judds land" and refers to the "Astley Demesne" or manorial lands belonging to the estate rather than lands farmed by a tenant. The name Astley itself, is linked to the Old English for an 'east' or 'eastern' wood clearing.

Finally, no look at Astley Village would be complete, without the mention of the most modern building – Derian House. Built as a children's hospice and opened in 1993, its' name derives from a combination of two brothers, Derek, and Ian Haydock - Der and Ian. Derek Haydock lived with a life limiting condition and the Haydock family struggled to access services for him. Ian and his family helped to raise funds for the hospice to be built, so that other families would have a dedicated place to go with children and young people needing assistance and medical care not provided by the NHS.

Councillor Keith Ashton

COUNCILLOR CASUAL VACANCIES

Astley Village Parish Council has two vacancies for a Parish Councillor, which will be filled by co-option.

Any person wishing to serve as a Councillor should write to the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk, contact details are on page 15, giving details and information about themselves, background and why they wish to become a Parish Councillor.

To qualify, the applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be 18 years of age and;
- appear on the current register of the Voters List; or
- during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish; or
- during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have occupied within the parish their only place of work.

Applicants must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor (further information is available by contacting the Parish Clerk)

CLOSING DATE 25 JUNE 2021

Village Development Plan

In the last newsletter the Parish Council published its current development plan and work has begun on some of our projects. Several are described in other articles in this newsletter namely, contributions to the play facilities and paths on the West Way Development, upgrade signage in the village and tree planting along Chancery Road.

In addition...



Wildflower strip preparation

The Parish Council has always aimed to keep Astley village looking as attractive as possible, so we are keen to develop wildflower areas along Chancery Road. We are pleased to report that Chorley Borough are planting strips of wildflowers running from Long Copse to Long Croft Meadow as well as an area at the junction of The Farthings and Chancery Road. You may remember that the latter was planted



Wildflower area planted last year

last year with attractive, wild-life friendly results.

Chorley Borough Council have begun preparations and before long we will be enjoying the results.

There are ten planters along Chancery Road which the Parish Council have had installed over a number of years. We continue to maintain and upgrade these and we thank those residents who help to keep them looking good. At the time of writing the bulbs are fading and we shall be planting some summer colour soon. You will have noticed that the Parish Council have had the bus shelters along Chancery Road power cleaned, including the paved areas around them.



Stone Planter on Hallgate



Newly cleaned bus shelter and paved area

This is now showing the poor condition of the paintwork and following discussions with Chorley Borough Council it has been agreed to jointly fund the re-painting of the shelters.

We continue to seek residents' views relating to ongoing projects and welcome suggestions for new projects. You can submit correspondence to the Parish Clerk at clerk@avpc.org.uk.

Cllr. Chris Sheldon

The Restoration of Astley Hall

Although Astley Hall lies just outside the boundary of Astley Village, there is no doubt that it is an important feature of the area. Since moving to Chorley about 45 years ago I have always thought that the exterior of Astley Hall looked rather shabby and run down. The rendering was beginning to flake off in places and sections looked stained.



When Chorley Council decided to invest £1.5 million in the restoration of the Hall there was no certainty regarding the condition of the brickwork beneath the render. The Hall is one of the main attractions for visitors to Chorley and as such is a valuable asset to the Borough and needs to be preserved.



The good news is that the more the render has been removed the better the condition of the brickwork appears to be. Whilst the Hall is closed the conservators have taken the opportunity to carry out improvements and repairs to the interior. It is hoped that at the completion, more rooms will be open to the public and the tapestries will reveal their original colours.

It is thought that the render was applied as the original brickwork was regarded as unfashionable and 'cheap'. In an attempt to make the Hall look more attractive, at one time the front aspect was painted pink, using blood from cattle to achieve the desired hue of paint. It was then painted white, and when this did not achieve the desired effect, it was decided to apply render. This was done about two hundred years ago but has suffered several 'blown' areas as the paint used on the brick did not provide a suitable base.

A working group of the Parish Council are recommending that a picture of the renovated Hall should feature on the gateway sign at the West Way entrance to the village.

The large soft wood windows which feature at the front of the hall are also due to be replaced and the original Tudor windows in The Long Gallery will be assessed and repaired in keeping with the original techniques used in the creation of the original panes.

Cllr. John McAndrew

Westway Development

Supported by the Premier League, The FA and government's Football Foundation, which has provided a grant of £647,595, the work has commenced at the site located between Westway and Chancery Road in Astley Village.

This fantastic development will include:

- 3G artificial grass pitch
- grass pitch improvements
- pavilion and changing facilities
- flood lighting
- car parking



A compact athletics track (council funded) to include:

- sprint lanes
- a long jump pit
- storage containers
- additional floodlighting

The artificial grass pitch, pavilion / changing rooms, associated infrastructure and council funded compact athletics track are expected to be completed early in 2021.



The Astley Park Trail



The 'Astley Park Trail' origins lie in a Friends of Astley Park project conceived in early 2018, to provide all weather access to an underused part of the Park, by reinstating an old 770 metre path along the north and east sides of the large playing field.

It was quickly realised that this could, in combination with existing paths, suitable information boards and way marking, create a 2 mile (3.3 km) trail round the park which would not only be great for walkers and joggers but also visitors interested in the various features along the route.

The project was completed in March 2021 thanks to funding from the Lancashire Environmental Fund and Chorley Council, who we would also like to thank for their invaluable help and advice.

1 – Haha or Hidden Wall

The haha can be found on either side of the gate posts that the Trail passes through quite near to the front of the hall and consists of a ditch with a wall on one side.

It is thought they originated in France and were introduced into this country during the 18th century to prevent farm animals entering the area around great houses, without any fence or wall being visible.

One explanation for the name is that it comes from the French 'ah ah', an exclamation of surprise.

2 – The Lost Fountain

The fountain was reconstructed in 2017 as a Friends of Astley Park project. It is thought to date from c18 century or possibly earlier (Historic England document).

3 – Ice House

A small rectangular ice house was located here. They were usually built partly below ground, the part above being insulated by a covering of earth. Hence this mound of earth.

The ice house position is described in a Historic England report on Astley Hall and shown on the 1890 OS map, which also shows a track leading up to it from the pond below, probably the source of ice stored here.

4 – The site of the Mill

The 1844, OS map shows a building here which was almost certainly in use as a Carding Mill in 1780.

There was a bridge across the stream and a lane from the mill went South over it to join what is now Southport Road, then known as Ackhurst Lane.

If you look South the route of the lane is still just visible. It dates from medieval times and was known as Lidgate Lane or later Lidgate Lane. (Heyes – History of Chorley).

5 – Sensory Garden for the Blind

The Sensory Garden, was originally the “Blind” garden built in 1953, replanted in the 1990s and completely restored in 2014.

6 – Park Road Gates

The imposing Memorial Entrance Gateway dates from early 19th century and was purchased by the corporation from the Gillibrand estate. It was brought here and erected as part of the War Memorial in 1922.

The Reed Bed – About 40metres north west of here there is another 'Friends' project, a reed bed designed to help improve water quality in the Chor. More details are on the information board on the Trail just north of here.

The Reinstated Path

While you are walking down the north and north-east side of the park you are on the path that was reinstated in 2020 just before the first COVID-19 lockdown was announced.

This involved the laying down of a drained walkable surface and the rebuilding of some of the small footbridges that run through the wooded areas.

7 – Astley Hall from across the Lake

Astley Hall is Grade 1 listed. Built c1575 by the Charnock family as a timber framed house with courtyard.

Remnants of the original building now form the north and some of the west side of the hall. The three storey frontage was added c1650, the east wing was added in 1825 and c1875 some small additions were made to the north east corner. It has a noted interior with a fine staircase and remarkable plasterwork.

The Stable block, west of the Hall is grade II listed and built c1725. Astley farm, north of the stable block is, a remnant of the old home farm.

The Friends of Astley Park have recently recommenced regular group activities on Saturdays whilst still applying recommended social distancing and other Covid 19 restrictions. Our latest activity concentrated on clearing litter from the River Chor which, due to the recent lack of rain, was at a very low level.

Councillor John McAndrew

Bus Shelters on Chancery Road



One of the projects the Parish Council has undertaken in 2021 is the power washing of all the existing ten Bus Shelters on Chancery Lane, including the hard stand paved areas, the benches and the waste bins. 'Well overdue' you may say, which is true, but the ownership of these Shelters is actually Chorley Borough Council, so permission to proceed was required.

Sourcing an organisation with the experience, the equipment and resources to undertake this work was not an easy task, but eventually a competitive quote from a Manchester based organisation by the name of 'Under Pressure Cleaning Solutions Ltd' was accepted.



As it was not possible to close down these shelters for the duration of the work it was important to ensure that the chemicals and the process used were not long term toxic to people or animals. The cleaning of each shelter was essentially in 3 stages.



Firstly an anti-algae treatment on the paving, benches, bins and shelters which instantly starts to disperse any algae/dirt was applied, aiding the cleaning and

prolonging the end result. Secondly the paving areas were pressure cleaned using a rotary attachment. Lastly the paving, shelters, benches and bins were pressure cleaned using a lance attachment, removing the lichen/moss, heavy grime and loose paint from the metal work, providing a much cleaner aesthetic look and readying them for subsequent repainting.

The power washing itself has already made a tremendous difference to all of the 10 Bus Shelter areas and the re-painting is already underway.

This project has been a team effort between Chorley Borough Council and the Parish Council, much to the benefit of the village as a whole.

The photographs reflect the various 'before' and 'after' effect of the work, the process itself and the team who undertook the project.



New Trees For Astley Village 2020 – 2021

As Part of the Parish Development Refresh, it was agreed in November 2020 to replace trees that had died or for other reason had been removed and ten new trees were planted along the main road through the village, Chancery Road. These have all now settled in and are showing substantial new growth.



The Parish Council has in 2021 continued the initiative and is working in tandem with Chorley Borough Council on an environmental

enterprise, supporting a national 'Climate Change' and 'Green Agenda' and is supporting Chorley Borough Council on its journey towards planting 116,000 trees in the Borough by 2025, as a commitment to becoming more carbon neutral.



Her Majesty the Queen's recently announced national 'Green Canopy Scheme' has been launched to encourage people to plant trees to mark HM Elizabeth II 70 years on the throne. Schools, businesses and community groups will be able to apply for the three million free saplings from the Woodland Trust, as part of this project. The scheme will also highlight 70 irreplaceable ancient woodlands across the UK, and create a pilot training programme for unemployed young people to plant and manage trees.



Most of the Village Parish Councils efforts this year will again focus on replacing trees that have been lost and already in the first few months of 2021, a further 30 trees were planted along Chancery; again, most of them filling the gaps left by the removal of dead trees.

The trees selected are intentionally low level growth trees

and will need very little maintenance. The tree lines follow the existing tree lines along Chancery and the trees will help to soak up existing ground water along the Chancery verges. Already quite a number of local residents have made complimentary remarks regarding the planting of these new trees and what they contribute to Chancery Road itself,





the Shopping Centre Green and the Village Green opposite Hallgate and other areas. Although only planted during March, again we have already seen significant growth from the trees.

Sadly, as you will see from the photograph opposite, one of the 30 new trees close to the entrance to Hallgate, which for whatever reason, suffered total damage and devastation!!!
Hard to believe, isn't it!



Councillor Arnold Almond.

Introductions



Hello

I am married to Denise and have lived on Long Croft Meadow since January 1992 and appreciate Astley Village, its environment, and the amenities in Astley Park.

My priorities include making Astley Village attractive to residents and visitors, with more plants and trees, encouraging everyone to help reduce the amount of litter and to help improve the provision of play equipment in Astley Village.

I am retired with a grown-up family and am on the governing body of Trinity Buckshaw school as a Foundation governor, representing Trinity Methodist Church in Chorley. My hobbies include gardening and DIY and supporting my favourite football team.

Councillor Keith Ashton



Hello

I am pleased to have been co-opted back onto the Parish Council.

Councillor Matt Lynch

Parish Councillor Contact Details

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Councillor Anne Pryce



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Email: cllr.matt.lynch@avpc.org.uk



www.avpc.org.uk

Parish Council Information

You can Contact the Parish Clerk, Craig Ainsworth by emailing him at clerk@avpc.org.uk or write to him at Astley Village Parish Council, 5 Clarendon Gardens, Bolton. BL7 9GW.

Visit the Parish Council website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information:
www.avpc.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings are normally held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of alternate months, at the Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village, unless otherwise notified. Meetings will be held on 7 July, 1 September, 3 November 2021, 5 January and 2 March 2022 at the rise of the Parish Meeting.

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

The Parish Council has two notice boards located one at the junction of Chancery Road and Hallgate and in the village centre next to the Community Centre. In addition, the Parish Council have a Community notice board, mounted on the shop wall, near to the Pharmacy entrance and is now being used as a Community notice board where groups can post messages about Community activities, events etc. Email any notices to the Parish



Clerk: clerk@avpc.org.uk

Small Grants Fund

The Parish Council can offer grants to local organised groups for local projects. The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands of pounds but can make a real difference.

If your group would like to apply, all they need to do is submit an application form with some details. A copy of the grant criteria and application form are on the Parish Council website: www.avpc.org.uk

Useful Contacts



Village issues relating to litter, trees & hedges, fly tipping and graffiti. Also, your household waste collection service. Report directly to Chorley Council on: **01257 515151**

or at: <https://main.chorley.gov.uk/>

You will need to register at 'my account' then you can Report any issue directly and pinpoint on a map.



Places for People residents also have the option of contacting PfP should any matters fall within their service charges such as littering, fly tipping etc. 'on the estate'.

Residents can report issues by phoning **01772 667002** or **0845 850 9571** Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm (excluding bank holidays) or register for an online account at:

<https://my.placesforpeople.co.uk/signup.aspx>



If you need to report any Lancashire County Council faults such as problems with pavements, roads, street lights, flooding, bollards, gritting or any main infra-structure items you can do this simply online using this link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>

or telephone Highways reports on: **0300 123 6780**



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

You can also report crimes via the internet using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y92qm4um>

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Chorley Police Station | 01257 269021 |
| Central Control Centre | 101 |
| Crimestoppers | 0800 555 111 |
| (anonymous reporting) | |
| All emergency calls | 999 |

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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 in Spring and Winter. A total print for the newsletter is 1600, delivered by local distributor to every house, just short of 1500 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