



Review of the Year in Photographs

Village Development Plan Update

Barrica Wines Feature



# Annual Report 2020



We held our annual budget setting meeting on January 8th and decided not to increase the precept, so charges remained the same as last year for residents. At our March 4th meeting we reviewed plans in progress for several projects in the village. We

did not realise even then at our March meeting that almost everything would be put on hold.

Lockdown has made the memories of our Christmas tree carol singing and get together afterwards in My Girls Cafe, fade. It even resulted in the Cafe closing and the Astley Inn becoming a takeaway. Although the children have now returned to school and the pub and cafe have reopened, as I write this column we are all following national restrictions. It seems that the “new normal” still needs refining and who knows what it will look like by the time you read this!

The lockdown though has had its benefits. Many people have taken to daily walks in Astley Park and have explored some of the many routes into the park from Astley Village using paths that have been improved through our Neighbourhood Working projects. The use of cars drastically reduced initially and as a result we have been able to listen to the sounds of nature through a wonderful dry and sunny spring. Neighbours, although distanced were chatting to one another from their gardens, as well as joining together on Thursdays to “clap for carers”. A renewed sense of community grew allowing us to recognise the value of workers often under appreciated in our society.

Those who have been very ill or lost loved ones to this virus may find it hard to see the positives I refer to. As I write, my family has not really been touched by the virus although we have had one scare. Also, many are really feeling the frustrations of the restrictions and some will be experiencing the loneliness of not being able to meet with family and friends or have missed the change of a summer holiday. Others will be worrying about their ability to look after their families having lost

work or having reduced income. 2020 will live long in our memories.

The parish council has had a busy and disrupted year too. Our clerk, Debra Platt decided to leave in January but thankfully was happy to continue until we found a replacement. Recruitment was put on hold until lockdown relaxed. Thank you to Debra for all her work for the council and welcome to Craig, who took over in August.

We have had a number of changes to our councillors as well, Anne Pryce joined us in March. At the same meeting Susan Crook resigned and in September Jenny Dawson resigned and Gillian Sharples joined the council. We welcome Gillian and we wish Jenny and Susan well as they move on to pastures new. Over the summer Keith Robinson decided it was time to step down after many years of service to the parish. However, he will still take an interest in all matters “Astley”, I am sure. Thank you to Keith for all his work over so many years.

So, we have a number of vacancies to fill and would especially like to recruit from “unrepresented” areas. If you would like to be a parish councillor please contact the clerk.

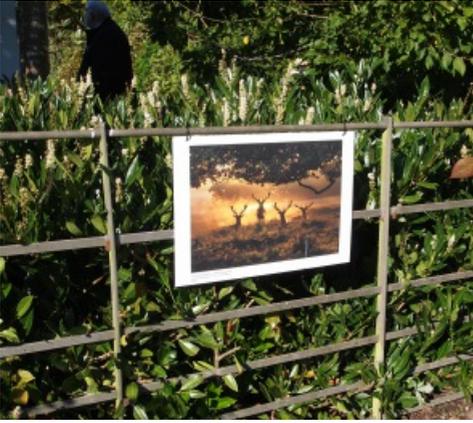
We were unable to publish our Newsletter in May, due to the lockdown and the closure of our printers, so this edition includes a “catch up” on the year.

One of the biggest changes for the council has been the move to Zoom virtual meetings. Members of the public can still join the meeting but need to contact the clerk in advance. We look forward to returning to face to face meetings as soon as possible. We have also updated our website, so please take a look. The contact details of councillors and how to contact the clerk are on the website, as well as the notice boards in the village Centre.

Sadly, we have taken the decision not to hold our carol singing event this year, but the Parish Council still wish you seasonal greetings.

Councillor Laura Lennox  
Chair of the Parish Council

# Astley Park



The past couple of months have seen two significant events take place in Astley Park. Firstly, on a hot August Bank Holiday Monday, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP unveiled Cherry Chung's beautiful willow sculpture of Susannah Knight, a schoolteacher who lived in Chorley during the First World War.

Susannah taught local men who were recruited to the East Lancashire and Loyal North Lancashire Regiments before they left for the front line. She later produced a book of memorials dedicated to the fallen, which eventually spanned to three volumes and is now known as the 'Golden Books'.

This Autumn sees the 11th British Wildlife Photography Awards return with an exhibition of truly stunning photograph from previous winners. The images can be found around the Walled Garden and within Astley Park itself. They are a very welcome sight to brighten up some of the traditionally dull autumn/winter days! The exhibition runs until March 2021.

Councillors Gillian Sharples & John McAndrew



## Astley Village Projects

Despite the floods of February, the lockdown which started in March and the very hot dry spring, the Parish Council projects have progressed. The new knee rail in the village centre was installed in January, trees were planted along Chancery Road in February and the wildflower meadow was ploughed. New steps were completed in Dog Trap and Judeland woods in January. Many Astley Village residents made good use of them to access Astley Park for daily exercise through lockdown.

When lockdown ended work began on Westway playing fields. The new pavilion is being built, the field has been drained and will be open again for access when the grass pitches have been completed. All weather pitch and other facilities should be completed in the spring.

The Parish Council plans to work with Chorley Council to build a new children's playground on the site as well.



Councillor Laura Lennox

## Speed Indicator Devices

Many residents have expressed concern about speeding on Chancery Road. The Parish Council has worked with both Lancashire and Chorley to monitor speeding and seek ways to encourage responsible and safe driving.

Two permanently fixed solar-powered speed indicator devices (SPIDs) have been purchased and installed at either end of the Village. The Parish was concerned that the previous device was battery driven and required removing and recharging after 4 days, so permanent SPIDs were sought as a better option. We are delighted that these are solar powered, and as residents will have observed, do work at all times of day and night and in all weather conditions.



Chorley Borough Council has provided a grant towards one device and the Parish Council has funded the second device. Siting and installation were undertaken by Lancashire in accordance with the sites specified by the Parish. These reflect what residents have requested, particularly near the difficult junction between Wymundsley and Chancery Road.

As the photos show, the SPIDs monitor the speed of vehicles and ensure drivers know when they are driving in excess of 30mph. Readings can be extracted from the SPIDs so that patterns of speed can be monitored and



the Parish Council will receive regular reports. This will enable reference to the Police for action if there continues to be significant excess speeding on entry to the Village.

Councillor Chris Lennox

# VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATED

The Parish Council recently agreed the following Vision, Aims and Objectives. These will underpin the decisions taken by the Parish Council and have informed the recent review of the Village Development Plan.

## **Vision - 'Improving Astley Village for everyone'**

### **AIM 1: To be a Parish where local people are involved in their community**

- To ensure the Parish Council is listening and communicating effectively with residents.
- To encourage residents to engage with Parish Council activities and the decision making processes.
- To work with local businesses, Chorley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and Places for People to improve the Village and meet issues raised by local residents

### **AIM 2: To be a cleaner, greener, more attractive Parish**

- To make the Village a more attractive and sustainable place for all.
- To work with partners and residents to ensure the Village is clean and attractive.
- To enhance the open spaces and contribute to the environmental sustainability of the Village.
- To influence the regeneration of the built environment through responding to planning consultations.

### **AIM 3: To support activities that improve the health and well-being of residents**

- To work with Partners to encourage and promote good health opportunities.
- To promote cycling within the Village.
- To improve access to play, sport, and leisure facilities and activities.

### **AIM 4: To be a Parish that is a safe place to live.**

- To improve road safety in the Village.
- To work with Partners to ensure effective Traffic Management arrangements are in place and implemented for events taking place in the Parish and Astley Park.

The two-year Village Development Plan 2019/21 has been updated (see below), with the addition of new and enhanced projects. The Council is working with Chorley, Lancashire and other organisations to make improvements to the appearance of the Village, undertake more planting, tackle road safety, develop local facilities and improve communications with residents. The Council feels good progress is being made and hopes residents share their view. Residents are invited to submit their suggestions to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@avpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@avpc.org.uk) for any additions or new projects they would like to see undertaken in the Village.

Councillor Chris Lennox

PROJECTS	ACTIONS	WHEN	BUDGET £
Improve Village centre & enhance Village Green	Work with Chorley, Places for People, The Astley and shop leaseholder as part of Neighbourhood Working projects to improve the Village Centre. Green area in front of shops - <b>plant trees</b> following replacement of hedgeline with knee rail. <b>Wildflower Meadow</b> project at the rear of the Green.	2019/21	1,000
Planter scheme	<b>“Adopt a planter”</b> scheme with residents volunteering to maintain planters at the ends of roads.	2019/20	250
Tree planting	<b>Plant more trees</b> on wet verge areas to soak up excess water & replace trees which have had to be removed.	2019/21	5,000
Wildflower Meadows	<b>Extension of the Wildflower Meadow project</b> introduced at The Farthings to other areas <b>along Chancery Road in conjunction with Chorley,</b>	2020/21	500
New lighting scheme for the Christmas Tree	New lighting purchased – <b>installation for Christmas lights</b> to be agreed.	2020	800
Litter bins	Work with Chorley to site additional litter bins as required, particularly near entrances to Astley Park.	2019/21	
Road safety	Following the purchase of two permanent solar-powered Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDs) on Chancery Road to deter speeding, to monitor data to identify further action to improve road safety.	2020/21	
Health & Well-Being	Encourage activities and groups in the Village; provide <b>grants</b> ; Christmas carol singing event (when permitted); work with Chorley on <b>Westway Fields project to enhance play facilities</b> , with an agreed contribution by the Parish Council.	2019/21	20,000
Respect the Village campaign	Project to keep the Village clean and tidy. Encourage reporting environmental issues to Chorley & PFP. Provide volunteer litter pick equipment for residents/groups for community litter picks.	2019/20	
Improving Community Engagement and Raising the Profile of the Parish Council	<b>Improving communications with residents</b> through upgrading the website and creating email addresses for councillors	2020/21	500
Finger Post signs	To provide <b>signage for pedestrians throughout the village</b>	2021/22	2,500
Gateway signs	To provide <b>gateway signs</b> at the entrance to the Village at each end of Chancery Road featuring Astley Hall.	2021/22	5,000

# The Year in Photographs



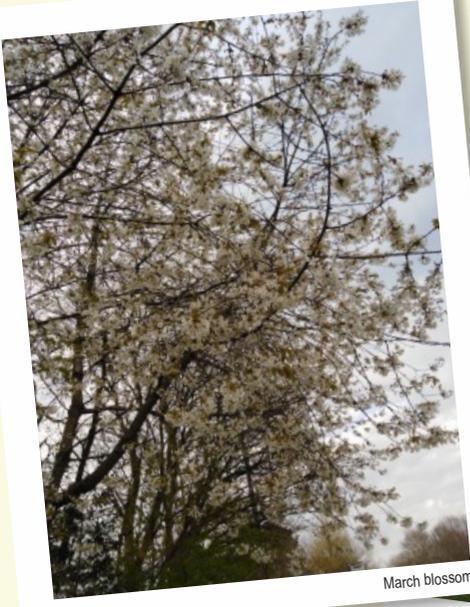
In February 10 trees were planted along Chancery Road



January and the new knee rail was installed



A warm March and spring flowers returned to the grass verges



March blossom



The new daffodils on the Green bloomed for the first time in April

# The Year in Photographs



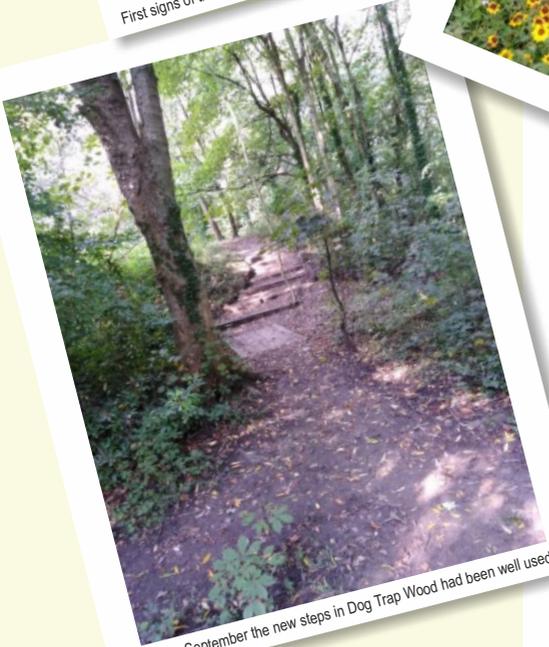
The poppies were at their best in July



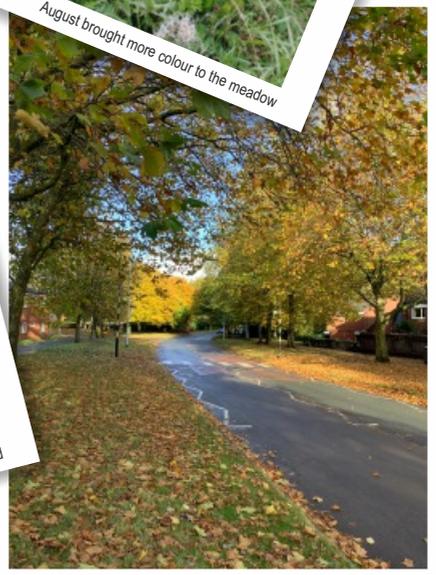
First signs of the wild flower meadow on Chancery Road appeared in June



August brought more colour to the meadow



By September the new steps in Dog Trap Wood had been well used



October sunshine

# Astley Village Amenities and Retail Food Outlets

## Barrica Wines in the Park - Astley Farm

You will remember in the 2019 Winter Newsletter we took a stroll through the Astley Village amenities offering Retail & Food outlets from local stores, Pubs & Restaurants and Pharmacy, within the Village Centre. We are pleased to say that all of these organisations and businesses have steadfastly fought their way through the dreadful 2020 Covid pandemic and were, until the second four week lockdown came into play in November, still 'open for business.' Their continued presence is due, largely to the custom and support that Astley Village residents have given them during these challenging times and we sincerely hope that this will continue once we all return to what will become a new 'normal' at the end of the pandemic.

Since the 2019 Parish Council Newsletter, we are fortunate to have another new business showing faith in the Village, opening up for business during February 2020 (just ahead of the Covid National Lockdown), namely, 'Barrica Wines Limited, who also launched 'Barrica in the Park,' as Lancashire's 'permanent food festival' at Astley Park, a new initiative bringing together the very best in Lancashire food, drink and working with local artisans.

Barrica Wines previously traded out of Chorley's Botany Bay before its closure, so it has quite a history in the area.



Barrica Wines had the opportunity to operate out of part of the farmhouse buildings at Astley Hall and as Barrica Wines owner, Jane Cuthbertson, explained, "the space provided more than enough room for beers, wines and spirits, it provided an opportunity to grow the business and invite other like-minded artisans and entrepreneurs to join the venture." A Chorley Borough Council representative stated, "The space in Astley Park is an ideal setting for artisan, independent traders and this will be a fantastic addition to the facilities around Astley Hall." It's the first of several major changes planned for the next

couple of years with major conservation work taking place on the front of the Hall and plans to open a museum shop and visitor information point.

Jane sees the Astley Park location and surrounding Astley Village as a place where established local producers can share space with smaller businesses and has effectively created a permanent food festival, which has been named 'Barrica in the Park.' Already, numerous local

producers and artisans have joined her venture, with gins, beers, cheese, chutneys, jams, bread and cakes, sauces, ice cream and chocolate all providing a veritable feast.

Jane's business acumen and experience in the area alerted her to a wealth of local talent and through her enthusiasm and persuasion many have joined the venture. Barrica can now boast a photographer who specialises in local landscapes and nature; a lady who produces beautiful original handcrafted jewellery; an extremely gifted glass engraver who produces some amazing pieces which are now regarded as 'collector' and 'investor' pieces; a traditional boat builder who now uses his skills to create some wonderful woodcraft products; a ceramics specialist who displays a showcase of fabulous work; plus an extensive range of Murano Glass and though Venice isn't very local to Chorley, the sole UK importer of this artist's work hails



from a local village and he chose to display the Murano range at Barrica in the Park. All of the above can be seen (and purchased) on the mezzanine above the wine shop, which is an absolute 'Tardis'. The artisans, all of whom live locally and some on Astley Village, visit the site from time to time, demonstrating their goods, talking to customers and holding workshops on the mezzanine. "It represents a collaboration of small local businesses in one location, to the benefit of us all," said Jane.

As Astley Village residents, we are all fortunate to have such talented people and products on our doorstep; take advantage of the opportunity to use them. The management and staff at Barrica in the Park welcome your visit, even if it is just to take a look.

Councillor Arnold Almond



## Introductions



Hello

I lived on Woodfall with my Parents and my younger Brother until age 10 and we both attended Buckshaw County Primary School. We enjoyed many trips to Astley Park with our Grandparents and playing football at the 'triangle'. We moved to Eccleston in August 1994 and despite living further away, I still attended Parklands High School between September 1995 and June 2000.

In 2002, I began studying at Manchester Metropolitan University and I moved into student halls in the city. I was fortunate enough to buy my first house on Buckshaw Village in 2011. In March 2019, I was happy to return to Astley Village and I now live on Wymundsley.

I currently work as a Team Leader for the Registry and Enrolments team at Accrington & Rossendale College. In May 2018, I was elected as Borough Councillor for Euxton South, winning by a narrow margin of 11 votes! I was also elected as Parish Councillor for Euxton South.

I am very pleased to have now been elected to serve as a Parish Councillor for Astley Village. I am keen to work with fellow councillors to help improve our community and I am very happy to have been able to move back to the village I grew up in.

Councillor Gillian Sharples



Hello

I took up my appointment as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on 1 August 2020 and I am really enjoying the role and am confident that I can support the work of your Parish Councillors going forward and together we can achieve great things for Astley Village.

I have spent over 34 years working in the public sector providing professional democratic governance support. Over this period, I have been responsible at a senior level for managing the governance arrangements in a local government, local council, NHS, and higher education setting, ensuring high standards of corporate governance.

In 2000, on behalf of Stockport Council I was responsible for establishing Offerton Park Parish Council, the first and only Parish Council in Stockport.

For almost ten years, I was Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council. During that time the Parish Council became one of only two Parish Councils to be awarded both Charter Mark & Quality Parish Status and in 2007 the Parish Council won website of the year and was often held up as an example of "good practice" by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society for Local Council Clerks. I am a 'Qualified Clerk' and hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

I am a Senior Officer within the Governance & Secretariat Team at Manchester Metropolitan University. Prior to this I was the Democratic Services Manager at Stockport Council with responsibility for leading and managing the Democratic Governance function.

I have been appointed by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council to carry out the statutory role of "Independent Person" under Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 and was appointed by the Lord Chancellor as a Magistrate in April 2003.

Craig Ainsworth

# Friends of Astley Park

The very wet winter often prevented us from carrying out our routine tasks, and the very dry spring together with the Covid 19 pandemic and the consequent lock down created further problems.

Sadly, several of the evergreen shrubs in the planters in the Cafe Ambio courtyard have perished, but now that lock down has been eased, we have resumed our watering rota to preserve the shrubs that remain.

Two of our members with brick laying skills have worked very hard over several weeks to raise the wall around the 'Lost Fountain' and generally tidy up the area. Some additional plants have also been added. We usually have the fountain running when there are events in the park. We tried running the fountain for a longer period at the start of October but found that after a week, the level of the pond which feeds the fountain, had fallen by around 20 cm. If we can raise the level of the pond by reducing the loss through the spillway, we may be able to have it running more frequently.

The Sensory Garden also suffered neglect, but we have now carried out our usual tidying up, observing of course, the 2 metre distance ruling.

The health and safety of Park users has always been important to us, so we have added the cleaning of the various flights of stone steps in the Park to our list of tasks, in order to reduce the danger of falling.

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to carry out our usual 'balsam bashing'. We usually receive assistance from a number of schools but, understandably, this has not been possible this year. We hope to start earlier next year to help keep this highly invasive plant from taking over large swathes of the Park.

Finally, some good news. The exceptionally dry sunny conditions in March enabled the contractors appointed to reinstate the old path around the recreation field, to complete the job quickly and just in time to avoid lock down. This proved fortuitous as, during this difficult time, it has been quite heavily used by people using the Park for their daily exercise.

The re-creation of this old path has been achieved by the Friends with the assistance of Chorley Council and a grant from the Lancashire Environmental Fund. It will, in conjunction with existing paths, ultimately form a perimeter route of 3.3 kilometres wholly within the Park. The provision of the necessary signs and information will, when circumstances permit, be provided by the Friends, again assisted by the Council and the Lancashire Environmental Fund.

I would like to end with an invitation to join us. As you can see from the few mentioned above, we participate in a wide variety of tasks and projects some strenuous, others not so. If you would like to help us to continue our work with the Council to make our Park something 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 Hon Secretary and Councillor John McAndrew



## Parish Councillor Contact Details

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Councillor Rod Fraser  
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Councillor Laura Lennox  
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Judeland

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Councillor Anne Pryce  
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Councillor Gillian Sharples  
Wymundsley.

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Councillor Chris Sheldon  
The Farthings

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## Parish Council Information

You can Contact the Parish Clerk, Craig Ainsworth by emailing him at:

[clerk@avpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@avpc.org.uk)

or write to him at:

Astley Village Parish Council, 5 Clarendon Gardens, Bromley Cross BL7 9GW.

Visit the Parish Council website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information:  
[www.avpc.org.uk](http://www.avpc.org.uk)

Parish Council Meetings are normally held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of alternate months at Astley Village Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village, but at the moment we are holding virtual meetings.

Meetings will be held on 6 January 2021 and Wednesday, 3 March 2021. (Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting).

Parish Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered to all homes in Astley Village, 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 is 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](mailto:clerk@avpc.org.uk)

## Small Grants Fund

Astley Village 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](http://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](http://www.stayintheknow.co.uk)

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

Chorley Police Station	<b>01257 269021</b>
Central Control Centre	<b>101</b>
Crimestoppers	<b>0800 555 111</b>
(anonymous reporting)	
All emergency calls	<b>999</b>

### 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.

# REOPENING OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT CHORLEY & SOUTH RIBBLE DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

## The Emergency Department at Chorley and South Ribble District Hospital

Here is a list of what you need to know about what you can expect from services available at the emergency department at Chorley and South Ribble District Hospital.

### About the service:

The emergency department at Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital will reopen on Monday 2 November.

The A&E service at Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital will initially open as an **adults only service**.

### Opening hours:

The department will accept patients from **8am until 5pm** each day. Between 8am — 5pm, ambulances will transport patients to Chorley if appropriate.

Outside of these hours, ambulance patients will be taken to Royal Preston Hospital.

### Coronavirus symptoms:

If you have a high temperature, loss of taste or smell or a new continuous cough, please use the NHS 111 online service: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>. You should only call NHS 111 if you cannot get help online.

### Urgent medical help:

For urgent medical help, not related to coronavirus, please use the NHS 111 online service: <https://111.nhs.uk/>.

You should only call NHS 111 if you cannot get help online.

### Emergencies:

Call 999.

You **should not attend** the A&E service at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital in the following circumstances:

- You are **pregnant**
- You are **under age 18**
- You suffer a **badly broken bone**
- You suspect a **heart attack or stroke**
- You suspect **internal bleeding**
- You suffer **extensive burns**
- You suffer **extensive trauma**

### Urgent Care Centre:

The 24/7 Urgent Care Centre at Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital can treat a wide range of minor ailments, for both **children and adults**, including:

- Minor nose bleeds
- Cuts, bites and stings
- Burns and scalds
- Infections (including abscesses)
- Foreign bodies in wounds, ears and noses
- Muscular sprains and strains to shoulders, arms and legs
- Fractures to shoulders, arms, legs & ribs
- Dislocations of fingers, thumbs and toes
- Minor eye conditions including conjunctivitis and foreign bodies
- Minor chest, neck and back injuries
- Minor head injuries with no loss of consciousness or alcohol-related
- Minor allergic reactions
- Minor ailments such as earache, urinary tract infections and sinusitis
- Diarrhoea / Constipation
- Emergency contraception

In any of these circumstances, please **go directly to Royal Preston Hospital A&E** department. Patients requiring resuscitation or suffering from high risk internal bleeding will also be taken straight to the Royal Preston Hospital.

For more information on services please visit:  
[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

With the reopening of the emergency department at Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital, @LancsHospitals have produced this helpful infographic:

The Parish Council would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year and a prosperous and better 2021!