



G7 Speakers Conference

Astley Village Past & Present

Opening of New Sports Complex

Chair's Report



Welcome to our Newsletter for Autumn 2021.

It is hard to believe that it is November already and that we are coming to the end of another difficult year of Covid-19 with all the disruption that this has caused and in many cases the sad news of the passing of some of our close friends and/or relatives, due to Covid. In the Spring Newsletter it was mentioned that we were all looking forward to the Covid restrictions being eased and that did happen, however, with the number of cases continuing to increase, we are in danger of heading for a return to the restrictions and even a possible lockdown. Hopefully, as vaccination figures continue to increase, we will be spared these restrictions and be able to celebrate our Christmas and New Year celebrations in the way that we are used to doing. The message is simple 'GET VACCINATED.' It is our only weapon against Covid and it saves lives.

Throughout the summer months we have seen much activity in the village, including the official opening of the West Way Sports Hub by our Chorley MP and Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle. Though raining on the day, the opening was very well supported and the opening speech by Sir Lindsay was very well received, as was his involvement with the footballing youngsters who had been invited to take part (though we didn't see any threat to Ronaldo or Mo Salah on the day). The Sports Hub is a wonderful facility which provides some badly needed sports facilities and opportunities to Astley Village and Chorley Borough in general. Work is continuing on the Hub including the building of a children's play area, which will be partly financially supported by Astley Village.

Another significant event was the G7 Speakers Conference, held in July, again hosted by Chorley MP and Speaker of the House, Lindsay Hoyle. The Conference took place over three days, 17 – 19 July and ended with a Red Arrows flyover of the village and Astley Hall (see page 10). We hear that it was a very successful Conference and it was certainly a once in a lifetime event for Chorley, Astley Hall and therefore, for Astley Village.

The mini meadows and wildflower borders initiative by Chorley Council along Chancery Road, supported by the Parish Council, certainly eventually brought some additional wildflowers to the village, along with correspondence from our residents, both positive and negative. The initiative is a long-term commitment by Chorley Council in line with the national effort to improve the environment and reduce the problems caused by CO2 emissions; the Parish Council has engaged with Chorley Council and has submitted a proposed plan to them to achieve more acceptable and less contentious results in the 2022 programme.

In the Spring edition of the Parish Newsletter, we mentioned that, due to retirements, we had vacancies on the Council. We do still have a vacancy and welcome your applications. The Notice Boards at Hallgate and at the front of the Community Centre, plus our website advertise the positions and the procedure for application, through our Parish Clerk at clerk@avpc.org.uk

I would also like to welcome Councillor Emma Barraclough to the Parish Council, I know she will be a great asset.

On the positive note of Christmas, the Parish Council is making arrangements for our annual village carol singing event to happen this year after the cancellation due to Covid in December 2020 although due to continued Covid restrictions the event has had to be scaled back from previous years. It will take place on the **Wednesday 15 December, at 7pm**, close to the Christmas Tree and the Community Centre. We are also sending out invitations to other village organisations to join us, along with Borough and County Councillors. We do look forward to seeing as many Astley Village children, parents and friends join us.

The Parish Council take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year 2022.

Councillor Arnold Almond
Chair of the Parish Council

COUNCILLOR CASUAL VACANCY

Astley Village Parish Council have a vacancy 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 14, 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 MONDAY 20 DECEMBER 2021

Astley Village: Past & Present

In the Spring Astley Village Parish Council newsletter, I wrote an article on the Origins and History of Astley Village. Having lived here since 1992, I wondered what the village was like in the years before we arrived. I have spoken with a number of residents who were here in the early 1980's and asked for their recollections and thoughts on how the village has changed – both good and bad !

Here are some of their comments and also some of our family thoughts and memories.

“We moved onto Astley Village in 1983. We were attracted by the quiet cul-de-sac, proximity to town, access to the motorway and the countryside. We had two young children and there were families of a similar age. Children could play safely in the road as users tended to be parents themselves and aware of the youngsters.”

“Over the years the village centre has changed . The Squash Club and associated bar and restaurant have morphed into a school. The shops and pub have changed hands and use.”

“The shops in the village centre have changed several times. We remember when there was an off-licence with a video rental store, where the Jolsa Indian Takeaway is now. There was a Nevins NISA store before the McColls shop and the Post Office was run separately with shorter opening times.”

Someone thought there was a good selection of items now and that the staff were friendly. Another benefit of the integrated Post Office is that it has excellent opening hours – “possibly the best in Chorley.”

“At one time there wasn't a pharmacy but there was a hairdressers and for a while there was a shop selling garden and conservatory furniture, possibly called 'Cane World' or something similar.”

“Recently the removal of the hedging in front of the shops and pub has opened up the space. The installation of the planters by the Parish Council has brightened up Chancery Road. The valiant effort to further enhance the road with 'wild flowers' has had mixed success. The cycle routes and their signing through the village is another positive development.”

“We miss the frequency of the circular bus service that used to serve the village. Perhaps the loss has led to an increase in residents driving into town. There is certainly an increase in traffic. Unfortunately, the increase in car ownership has led to cars parking on the roads and often on pavements which can make sight lines difficult for children and adults when crossing the road and children playing outside is a rarity. Coupled with the speeds at which traffic is driven, walking has become more challenging especially for people with prams and wheelchairs.”

(Those living on the roads near to St Michaels' school are very frustrated and annoyed by the inconsiderate parking of cars, especially where drivers leave their engines running for many minutes whilst waiting to collect schoolchildren.)

“Many residents will remember the weekly visits of Pawsons' chip van - now sadly missed. The restaurant at the Baron's Rest is no longer there with its live music. Its replacement, as 'The Astley- Village Inn' has become a popular amenity for the village. The Community Centre is a very well used meeting place right throughout the week.”

“Fortunately, we still have the Pony Field next to Derian House to enjoy, although the Derian House Summer Fairs no longer take place there. It still seems a popular venue for young footballers and for exercise. There were also regular car boot sales and Caravan Club meets on the rugby ground.”

It's a sign of the times that lawns and borders continue to be replaced with hard-standing. However, in certain areas trees have caused problems, with their leaves blocking drains in autumn and winter and roots which have lifted pavements and another problem is when some homeowners allow trees and shrubs to overhang the pavements! Tree foliage can also obscure road signs especially near the zebra crossing and the Parish Council has listened to comments from residents and acted upon those concerns to notify the appropriate authorities and ensure that improvements have been made.



“We do enjoy receiving the Astley Village newsletter, it is refreshing that it does not appear to be affected by party politics.”

The attractive nature of Astley Hall and Park has seen an increase in the daily usage of Hallgate car park, and when there are special events taking place. In general, planning for these events has reduced the inconvenience, but there are still times when the residents have found their patience tried – the downside to living in our attractive setting.

“Inhabitants of Astley Village are fortunate to have so many trees, green spaces and access to many pathways for walks around the village and into Astley Park itself. We have an almost green corridor walk, right into the centre of Chorley and beautiful, well maintained parkland to enjoy on the way.”

And a final thought from a neighbour.....

“Just as many of the residents have, the green spaces and trees have matured over the years.”

Councillor Keith Ashton.

G7 Speakers Conference Astley Hall

We were honoured this year to have Chorley's MP and House of Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle host the G7 Speakers Conference at Astley Hall on 17-19 July. The UK is the current holder of the G7 presidency.



Traditionally, the G7 Speakers Conference is held in the local area of the host Speaker and when asked where he felt that the Conference should be held (purportedly by Nancy Pelosi), Sir Lindsay said he could think of 'no better place in the country than his constituency of Chorley' to host his international counterparts.

He went on to say that he welcomed them to one of the most beautiful parts of the UK and that it was an opportunity for them to sample the best of Lancashire hospitality and Lancashire food, from Morecambe Bay shrimps to Lancashire creamy, crumbly and tasty cheeses, Cuckoo Gin and of course 'Chorley Cakes.' They would see the constituency itself, including Chorley Market, the beautiful scenery around Hoghton Towers and the history of James 1st knighting the loin of beef to 'Sir Loin of Beef' when he and his entourage stayed at Hoghton Towers in 1617; they would also see the Rivington area, Duxbury Woods and other places of interest and beauty, time permitting. The Conference was culminated by the Red Arrows squadron flyover

This was the first time ever that Chorley had hosted such a prestigious international event and the timing of the conference ideally dovetailed with the advanced stages of the renovation of the Hall itself.

Sir Lindsay welcomed seven of the world's senior politicians to the event including: Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives; Richard Ferrand, the President of the French National Assembly; Roberto Fico, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies; David Sassoli, President of the EU Parliament, and other representatives from Germany, Canada and Japan.

The theme of the Speakers Conference was 'Secure versus Open Parliaments'

We should not forget the connection between Astley Hall, Astley Park and what we now call 'Astley Village.' As was mentioned in Councillor Keith Ashton's article in the Spring Newsletter, Astley Village came about from the Central Lancashire Development Corporation (CLDC) initiative in the early 1970's, to purchase 35,000 acres of land from Astley Hall Farm to develop what has now become known as Astley Village.

As Sir Lindsay stated, 'having Chorley Borough as a backdrop to the summit will be priceless in promoting Chorley and the wider County on the world stage.' We should be very proud of our history and heritage and not lose this opportunity, provided by the G7 Conference July 2021.

Councillor Arnold Almond.

New sports facility in Astley Village opened by Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

The new £2.7 million complex in Astley Village was officially opened owned by Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP at an event on Saturday 21 August 2021 also attended by Parish Councillors.

Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP said: "It is wonderful to see the new West Way Sports Hub opened as this will provide outstanding sporting facilities for local people. With new changing facilities, a 3G pitch and improved grass pitches I am sure that local sports clubs and participants will take full advantage of the West Way sports hub. I have always championed the need for better sporting facilities and I would like to congratulate Chorley Borough Council for placing significant investment in the Sports Hub in addition to attracting funding from its partners, such as the FA and Sports England, to ensure that we have modern facilities which can cater for a wide range of local sporting groups."

Guests were able to watch children from some of the facility's partner clubs be the first to play football on the new pitch, and view the new facilities, which include new pavilion (and changing facilities), 3G football pitch and significant improvements to existing pitches.

Lee Boyer, Head of Facilities and Investment, Lancashire FA said "On behalf of the Lancashire FA we are delighted, to have this new hub in place, making an enormous, positive impact on the football community throughout Chorley, be it traditional club players or those looking for more recreational and educational opportunities. It will also contribute not only to the aspirations, as recognised in our work with partners across the borough, to identify football facility improvement, via Chorley's Local Football Facilities Plan, but our ongoing determination throughout the county, to see significantly enhanced and high quality facilities established, where people of all ages and abilities can engage in football".



Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP officially opening West Way Sports Hub, with Mayor of Chorley, Councillor Steve Holgate and players from partner clubs

Westway Development

The facility is also home to a compact athletics track (which includes sprint lanes, a long jump pit, storage containers and additional floodlighting) funded by Chorley Borough Council and was used at the opening event by Chorley Athletics & Triathlon Club.

Partner clubs include: Euxton Girls FC, Brinscall Village Juniors FC, Gillibrand Warriors FC, Chorley Wanderers FC, Astley & Buckshaw JFC and Chorley Athletics & Triathlon Club

Future plans for West Way Sports Hub include new footpaths around the grass pitches and a new playground to be built adjacent to the pavilion, both being supported by a financial contribution from the Parish Council.

Find out more at westwaysportshub.co.uk

Booking enquiries can be made by emailing westwayhub@chorley.gov.uk



RED ARROWS over Astley Park



Facilities for Young People living in Astley Village

Early in October this year, I posted this on the Astley Village Mums and Dads, Facebook site:

"I am a member of Astley Village Parish Council and my three children grew up here. At our last meeting we decided to examine the range of activities available for young people within our area. We have very limited resources but realise that the future health of our community is largely dependent on the involvement of our younger residents in the Village. If you know of any clubs, groups, etc which are currently running in our village, please would you let me know."

There were over 80 comments with the vast majority eager to see more facilities for our younger residents:

"It's so boring round here for the kids there's not one thing in sight what kids can do, bout time a park got made or something to actually get the kids attention!!."

"But what about all the little kids at the bottom of Great Meadow where I live, I look after my grandkids while their mum is at work, but I wouldn't let a 6 and 4 year old go play up there by themselves there should be a park on here for all the kids to play on in different parts of the village."

"We did have, beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows and brownies on the village. The beavers cubs and scouts use Bucksshaw school. The brownies and rainbows were in the community centre. Not sure why brownies and rainbows left the village. Cubs and scouts had to close. I was the beaver leader at the time, so I had to close beavers because there was no cubs for them to process to. Very sad for all the young people on our village, they have nothing."

"The community centre needs to go back to being exactly that, a centre for the community now it seems its used as a nursery and a place to vote and not much more, the children need more this village used to be dotted with play areas and activities for the kids to do in the holidays now nothing and not even the rugby field left to play on, when is this play area being built that we was promised."

"John the community centre is also quite difficult to hire I'd happily organise a few kids discos etc. but I've hired it before and the hoops I had to jump through were unreal maybe ask the council if the locals can have it one night a month and I will sort a few different aged discos or events."

"I'm the new person at Little Adventurers: Astley Village, the children's nursery that uses the community centre each day. 🤔 🌱 🏠"

"We would love to get involved with any groups or events that are going on, and we are super happy to help in any way we can. 😊 😊"

It would be great to see loads of stuff on for children of all ages in the village."

"Hi, I run an Olympic Judo club in Astley Village community centre every Tuesday evening. I have to say though, out of the 30 children that attend my Judo club each week, 2 of those actually live on the village and one of those 2 is my son."

As I said, we have very limited resources, but realise that the future health of our community is largely dependent on the involvement of our younger residents in the Village. If you have any suggestions as to how we could help to encourage and support facilities for our young people, please email me at, clr.john.mcandrew@avpc.org.uk

Councillor John McAndrew

Chorley Hedgehog Rescue



At our September meeting we had an introductory and very welcome visit from our Chorley Borough Council colleagues from Chorley North and Astley Ward, including Councillor Jean Sherwood, Councillor Adrian Lowe and Councillor Alistair Morwood.

Cllr Sherwood delivered a presentation to the meeting regarding the plight of hedgehogs both locally and nationwide and their rapid decline which current represents a 97% fall since the mid 1950's,

ending with a plea for the Parish Council to make our village residents aware of this problem.

During mid-August Jean and her colleagues had been invited to visit the Hedgehog Rescue Centre in Eaves Green Chorley. Although not in their Ward or Astley Village Parish, quite a number of the injured hedgehogs in the Rescue Centre had been brought to them from the Astley Village and Astley Park area. Jean mentioned that the wonderful team of volunteers asked them to raise awareness of the dangers these little creatures face.



Many of the injuries that the hedgehogs suffer are as a direct result of grass strimming, mowing, being caught in wire fencing and even in plastic items such as beer can holders, as the photographs show.



Chorley Hedgehog Rescue is a 'not-for-profit' Community Interest Company run by a team of volunteers, focussed on hedgehog rescue, rehabilitation, and release, dedicated to the protection of hedgehogs in and around Chorley and across Lancashire.

The Parish Council agreed to display some posters on their two notice boards in the village; the Rescue Centre can also be contacted at 1 Cottage Fields, Chorley, PR7 3QE, telephone number 07599 950153.

See their website www.chorleyhedgehogrescue.co.uk.

They urgently need your help to save our hedgehogs from extinction

Councillor Arnold Almond and
Councillor Jean Sherwood



Potholes Campaign – Report it!

Lancashire County Council are due to spend around £30.6m this year to maintain roads and pavements. But with 4,600 miles of highways and 5,300 miles of footways, they have to prioritise.

The highways inspectors regularly check major roads and footways for defects with all major routes checked monthly, secondary routes quarterly, and local access routes at least once a year.

If you see a pothole marked out in white paint, it means the inspector has assessed that it meets the levels to be fixed and will be repaired within the [standard response times](#).

Lancashire County Council aim to fix 90% of reported potholes within 20 days. But they need your help in reporting potholes to them, if you spot any in between inspections that could cause a safety risk, use the online report It tool at

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

They aim to repair potholes with the right type of repair, first time. Sometimes for the safety of road users, temporary repairs are made until a permanent repair can be carried out. This might be because the repair location requires complex traffic management or because of adverse weather conditions.

Pothole repairs can vary from small individual repairs to larger patched repairs. As well as traditional methods, we use several innovative approaches to ensure that repairs are carried out quickly, cost effectively and with minimal waste.

Introductions



Councillor Susan Crook

Hello Astley Village, I'm back again!

I am very grateful to have been allowed to return to be co-opted onto the Parish Council after leaving due to a possible move out of the area. As my plans have now altered, I thought it most prudent to return to serve my community, as I had done previously for several years.

For those who don't know me, I am a single mum of two teenagers, and currently the full-time carer for my special needs son, who lives at home with me on Great Meadow. Having worked for both South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council Highways Departments in the past, I hope to bring my knowledge and experience to the Parish Council once more.

It gives me enormous pride to be a resident of Astley Village, and having lived here for 9 years I feel it is one of the most supportive and welcoming communities I have ever resided in. I look forward to continuing to help improve our Village and give us all a better place to live in.

Councillor Emma Barraclough

My name is Emma Barraclough and I have been co-opted onto the Astley Village Parish Council.

I am a Medical Engineer at Chorley Hospital and I moved into Broadfields in March 2021. I am thoroughly enjoying exploring the area and want to be a part of the village community. As I am new to the role of councillor I am looking forward to learning more about the village and how I can help to make a difference.



Parish Councillor Contact Details

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The Farthings, Astley Village

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Councillor Chris Sheldon
The Farthings, Astley Village

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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 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 5 January and 2 March 2022.

Parish Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered to all homes in Astley Village, a circulation of nearly 1650.

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 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/>

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

or <https://www.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 at:

<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 at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y92qm4um>

Chorley Police Station	01257 269021
Central Control Centre	101
Crimestoppers (anonymous reporting)	0800 555 111
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 1650, 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

CAROL SINGING
CAROL SINGING

Christmas Carol Singing

Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 7pm

The Parish Council will be organising this year's Christmas Carol Singing to take place in front of the shops/community centre on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 7pm.

Unfortunately, the event has had to be scaled back this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Everyone is welcome to come along.

