

## Club & Society Contacts

ACG: Dave Smith..... 07412 320 172  
 Art Group: Jenny Key..... 830 678  
 Allotments: Mick Beeson 07979 817 356  
 Archery Group: Brian Grix ..... 830 363  
 Austrey Amblers Youth CC  
     Bev Johncock..... 830 491  
 Austrey Rangers FC: C Bryan.. 830 367  
 Baptist Church: Anita Allsopp ... 830 086  
 Bird in Hand PH..... 830 260  
 Bridge Club: Sue Belcher..... 830 183  
 Garden Soc: Barry Truman ..... 830 296  
 Golf Soc: Steve Fenton ..... 830 683  
 Haunton RC Church:  
     Fr. Sean Turley ..... 373 241  
 N'hood Watch: David Key ..... 830 678  
     or Beryl Grix..... 830 363  
 Playgroup: Emma Fish..... 830 606  
 Police: emergency ..... 999 or 112  
     all other calls ..... 01926 415 000

## Parish Council Contacts

Darren Greally (chairman)..... 830 650  
 Beryl Grix (vice chair) ..... 830 363  
 Gerald Bullivant ..... 839 029  
 Emma Fish ..... 830 606  
 Charlotte Mawdesley ..... 839 340  
 Robert Withey ..... 830 533  
 Pete Yates ..... 830 009

### Parish Clerk

Lynsey Treadwell ..... 818 558  
 Email: ..... clerk@austrey.co.uk

## Local Government

**Dan Byles MP** - 02476 315 233 Email: mail@danielbyles.com  
 Office: 8 Kingsway House, 4 Kings Street, Bedworth CV12 8HY  
 Surgeries at Polesworth Tithe Barn. To book, email sandra.trickett@parliament.uk  
**David Humphreys**—North Warwickshire Borough Councillor—01827 830 542  
 Email: davidhumphreys@northwarks.gov.uk  
 Address: Elms Court, Austrey, Atherstone CV9 3SS  
**Tilly May**—Warwickshire County and Borough Councillor - 01827 712 150  
 Email: cllrmay@warwickshire.gov.uk  
 Address: Tythe Farm, Green Lane, Birchley Heath, Nuneaton CV10 0QX

Local landline area codes below all begin 01827

PCSOs.....02476 483 622  
 Pre-School: Lisa Hand ..... 839 461  
     mobile (school trips) ..07950 923 671  
 School: Ann Parsons (Head).... 830 248  
 Shop & Post Office ..... 830 453  
 St Nicholas C of E Church  
     Rev. Stephen Banks ..... 839 022  
 Tennis Club: Sandra Yates ..... 830 009  
 Village Hall  
     Bookings: Joan Ainscow ..... 830 658  
     Committee: Chris Moss ..... 830 302  
 Village Voice: Chris Minett ..... 830 156  
 Walking Group: Stan Orton ..... 830 487  
 WI: T Liggett ..... 830 455

*If you wish to be included on the above list, or notice any errors, please contact the newsletter team (see previous page for details)*

To email all councillors, use  
**parishcouncil@austrey.co.uk**  
 Website contact: Charlotte Mawdesley  
**http://www.austrey.co.uk**

### Comments in writing:

Either deliver your letter by hand to the Parish Council 'comments' box located outside the village shop.

Or post to: Austrey Parish Council, c/o Austrey Stores & Post Office, 102 Main Road, Austrey, Atherstone CV93EG

I'm a handy contact list — cut me out and keep me!

# THE AUSTREY NEWS

reaching out into the heart of our community



**Edition 44 — March 12**

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## Austrey Targeted for Wind Turbine Installation

The Parish Council is aware of possible plans to site a wind farm between Austrey and Orton-on-the-hill.

The developer, Gaoh Energy, wishes to construct 8 very large turbines 125m (410ft) tall—several times the height of our church. However, they cannot apply for planning consent until they know the likely effectiveness of the turbines and have also carried out other necessary pre-planning research.

Looking at Gaoh's reasoning, you only have to stand on Orton Hill to see the miles of flat ground the prevailing South Westerly wind blows across, before sweeping over the Salt St. ridge.

Gaoh has now applied for Planning Permission for a single 60m wind-speed

monitoring mast at Austrey Farm. The PC hopes that the result will show that the wind speeds do not economically justify an installation, and that as a result no planning application for the 8 large turbines will follow.

Whilst being in favour of renewable energy, the PC feels the possible wind turbine installation is too close to local villages, and therefore inappropriate. Luckily as the ridge is on an RAF military flight path, we are likely to have the RAF on our side.

**The PC is fully committed to keeping you informed about the situation.**

**We will take whatever appropriate action we can to safeguard Austrey and its residents.**

## Diary Dates, Including Church Services

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 21 March  | Austrey Community/Arts Fest Meeting, Village Hall 7.30           |
| 27 March  | Haunton RC Church 7.30 Lenten Penance service                    |
| 30 March  | Austrey School and Pre-School, end of term                       |
| 1 April   | St Nicholas Church, Palm Sunday 10.30am Family Communion         |
| 2 April   | St Nicholas Church, 7.30pm Holy Week reflection                  |
| 5 April   | Haunton RC Church, 7pm Holy Thurs. & nocturnal watch to 10.00pm  |
| 6 April   | Austrey Baptist Church, 3pm service, then refreshments with buns |
| 6 April   | Haunton RC Church, 3pm Veneration of the Cross                   |
| 6 April   | Haunton RC Church, 6.30pm Stations of the Cross                  |
| 7 April   | Haunton RC Church, 7.30pm Holy Saturday Liturgy                  |
| 8 April   | Seckington Church, 8.30 Easter Communion                         |
| 8 April   | Warton Church 10.30 Easter Family Communion                      |
| 8 April   | Haunton RC Church, 10.30am Easter Sunday                         |
| 8 April   | St Nicholas Church, 6.00pm Easter Communion (with choir)         |
| 8 April   | Austrey Baptist Church, 10.45 service                            |
| 11 April  | Parish Council meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm, all welcome         |
| 12 April  | Austrey WI, "Work of the Leprosy Mission"                        |
| 13 April  | Garden Soc "A Witches Garden" Mrs Lynne Tann-White               |
| 16 April  | Austrey School and Pre-School, start of term                     |
| 17 April  | MMU Talk "NHS health check scheme" 7pm, all welcome              |
| 10 May    | WI Social evening and shoebox appeal information                 |
| 11 May    | Garden Soc, Gardening Question Time, Gerald Ingram of Planters   |
| 16 May    | Parish Council meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm, all welcome         |
| 17 May    | N'hood Watch Area Meeting, 7.30 Grimstock Hotel Coleshill        |
| 31 May    | Austrey School and Pre-School, end of term                       |
| 4 June    | Queen's Diamond Jubilee Street Party, 3-6pm                      |
| 8 June    | Garden Soc eve.visit, Grafton Cottage Garden, Barton-u-Needwood  |
| 13 June   | Parish Council meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm, all welcome         |
| 14 June   | WI talk, Victorian Fashion by Janet Courtney                     |
| 14 June   | Area Forum North, 6.30pm, venue tbc                              |
| 6-15 July | Austrey Community & Arts Festival, Open Gardens, & Beer Festival |

## Thomas Monke Charity

Thomas Monke was a wealthy landowner who lived in Shenton in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. He had 3 sons but sadly all died within 12 years of each other, the last in 1704.

He was so distraught by their deaths that, in his grief, he 'went walkabout'. He was especially moved by the kindness shown to him in 4 parishes (Austrey, Measham, Whitwick and Shenton) and so he decided to use his wealth to help the people of these villages. He made provision for apprentices to be awarded money towards the cost of tools.

The charity still exists today. Its recipients now include students who can get help to pay for books, and people over 75 who are living alone and are in need of a little financial help (for example with fuel costs).

At the end of March or beginning of April, we will be putting up a notice outside the village shop and also one outside the village hall giving details of how to apply. If you think you could benefit from an award from us, please don't hesitate.

Kind regards—Kay Angus  
Trustee of the Thomas Monke Charity

## Do you know someone who needs care?

Our Austrey team offers specialist Live-in Care.

Working with people of all ages, our Live-in Carers provide one-to-one support, balancing independent living with bespoke care needs. We can assist with:

- personal care
- companionship
- housekeeping

Our award-winning service is rated Excellent by the Care Quality Commission.

Find out how we can help you, please call 0808 180 1019 or visit [www.helpinghands.co.uk](http://www.helpinghands.co.uk)



**Helping Hands**  
Established since 1989



### Editorial Policy

The Austrey News is prepared and edited by the Parish Council and publishes items it feels are of interest to the Austrey community. It aims to promote local events, groups, charities and businesses and to keep everyone informed of anything that affects our community. We are not affiliated to any social, religious or political group. We reserve the right to amend or omit any items submitted. The final decision rests with the Chairman of the Parish Council. Copyright in any published articles is negotiable but normally rests with The Austrey News.

### Contributions

The Austrey News needs your input! Examples include seasonal articles, local history, and news of local events, groups and businesses. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have anything that would be of interest.

Format: Electronic copy in 'Word' is most useful, although we do accept legible hand written items. We can also write up people's stories for those who prefer to talk, not write. Pictures are welcome, ideally digital.

Word count: Please use no more than 450 words. Articles may be abridged at the discretion of the editor.

### Advertising with Us

The Austrey News is supported by the precept, and relies on advertising revenue to offset as much cost as possible. We accept adverts for items for sale, services from individuals and local businesses, and from those publicising charitable and fund-raising events. We do not publish notices of births, marriages or deaths.

Entry in 'Diary Dates' is free but further advertising charges per edition are £5.00 for 1/8 page (approx. business card size), £8.75 for 1/4 page, or £15 for 1/2 page. These prices include 3 months free publicity on <http://www.austrey.co.uk/>

### Send Advertising Requests, Comments, or Other Material to:

Email: [newsletter@austrey.net](mailto:newsletter@austrey.net) or [emma@austrey.co.uk](mailto:emma@austrey.co.uk) or [beryl@austrey.co.uk](mailto:beryl@austrey.co.uk)

By Hand: Parish Council postbox - outside village shop

By Post: Austrey Parish Council, c/o Austrey PO and Store, 102 Main Road, Austrey CV9 3EG

General submission queries: 01827 830 363 (Beryl Grix) or 01827 830 606 (Emma Fish)

### Production Deadlines and Distribution

The Austrey News is delivered quarterly by volunteers to every address within the parish boundary—just under 400 households and businesses. It is also available to download from [www.austrey.co.uk](http://www.austrey.co.uk). Please let us know if any house or business in Austrey is not receiving The Austrey News, or if you would like to help out with deliveries on a regular basis.

Printing: Acorn Print Media, Charnwood Business Park, Loughborough

Submission deadline: Please see front page

This edition: compilation, formatting and publication Emma Fish, proofing Beryl Grix.

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## Insight Into .... Area Forum North

What are they? What goes on there?  
Where do they take place? How often?

These gatherings are of people from the community who wish to raise local items of concern.

Austrey's catchment is Area Forum North which takes place every quarter. Venues vary so that all areas can be covered. There is always a police presence for private consultations, and each meeting opens with a resume of police support and report regarding previous quarter's policing in our region.

The last meeting at Baddesley Ensor on 9th February included a summary from WCC representatives of public transport. No further cuts had been announced for the coming financial



year, and investigations were ongoing regarding difficulty of access to Atherstone job centre, low uptake of Sunday services, wider circulation of bus timetables and school time buses being over subscribed resulting in general public having no seating available.

Broadband was also mentioned—£4 million investment—but local Authorities were still being asked to match fund and providers asked to double investment.

The next meeting will take place on 14th June, venue to be announced.

If you are interested in further information about this, please watch the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

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## Trading Standards Advice on Twitter

WCC's Trading Standards Service has launched its own business advice twitter. Twitter will help Trading Standards Officers keep in touch with small and medium sized businesses. Officers will be able to provide the business community with help and advice and promote fair trading and safety.

The Trading Standards Animal Health Team are also hoping to use twitter as another means to communicate with the farming community.

Follow them at:  
[www.twitter.com/warkstss](http://www.twitter.com/warkstss)

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## Access to Glebe Field - Clarification

Following a question about access raised by members of the public at the February Parish Council meeting, please note the following.

The Glebe Field is owned by the Diocese of Birmingham. No person has a legal right to set foot upon the land for any purpose whatsoever, unless specifically granted by the Diocese. Persons accessing the land without permission are trespassing.

Note that in civil law, trespass is actionable in the courts whether or not the owner of the land has suffered any damage as a result of the trespass.

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## Parish Council Chairman's Update — by Darren Greally

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you all on recent local matters.

High on the agenda is the recent planning application to erect a 60m high anemometer, to test the feasibility of the wind farm on the outskirts of the village towards Orton on The Hill. If the results of this trial are successful the next step is likely to be a full planning application for the erection of 8 wind turbines, each around 125m high, on the outskirts of our village. This I feel will be a scar on our local countryside, not to mention the possible noise disruption, and sundry other issues.

Other recent news is that permission has been granted for HS2 from London to Birmingham. This leads to the reality of the extension "Y" branch of the HS2, which could route very close to Austrey.

It is a very harsh reality that the possible future for our tranquil village is to be sandwiched between HS2 and wind turbines. I therefore urge you all to make your feelings known about these recent developments—via the Parish Council and/or relevant support groups. If you need further information on how to do so please approach any one of your Parish Councillors.

We have submitted our response to NWBC with respect to the Draft Core Strategy and plans for the development of housing within the Village to 2026.

We are also still open to all your comments regarding the situation on the Glebe field. So far we have had feedback via meetings and the website both for, and against. However, we would appreciate some more views so we can make a more informed decision on how we progress with this.

Crime again in our village is evident with the recent overnight theft of vehicle parts on Main Road, so please be vigilant and also let's watch out for each other. This is what makes our village community strong, so don't be afraid to flag up unusual activities or anyone acting suspiciously.

I would like to remind everyone that the Parish Council views are representative of what you put before us. Your opinions are heard and discussed in our monthly meetings, and we also include comments from residents which have been received via email, via personal conversations, or from letters (including notes left in our post box outside the village shop). I would urge you please to voice your opinion — we are here to listen and act for you. You have the chance to influence what happens in our village so speak up and help make a change for the better.

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## Austrey Church Clock

The Austrey Church Clock holds a place of great significance in Austrey as it is the Village War Memorial. It was installed in 1923 to commemorate the 6 men from Austrey who had lost their lives in the Great War.

You will all have noticed that the church clock is not working at present and we are awaiting an assessment by the clockmakers, Smiths of Derby, as to what is actually wrong with it. The clock is wound each week by Alan Dyson, of Newborough Close, who is looking forward to being able to continue with his regular task!

## Street Party Celebrating The Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Monday 4th June

Last year over 500 of us attended and enjoyed a successful Royal Wedding Street Party, and we have been asked to organise a similar event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Last time we made The Sun, local radio, and of course The Herald, and the Mayor of NWBC attended and chose the best dressed table.

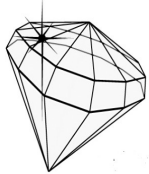


Soon each household in Austrey will receive a letter inviting them to join the rest of the village in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee (if you are not a Royalist then what a good excuse to have a party!). The purpose is to unite the whole village, have a great time and get to know each other in a relaxed and safe environment.

A £100 grant has been applied for and we hope to provide a memento for the children. If the funds are not sufficient for the number of children, the grant will be used for children's competitions and prizes.

A road closure application will go in to the Borough Council and last year there were no complications. The plan is to close Main Road between Bishops Cleeve and 'Nether End'. All those directly affected have been informed and asked for their input and the response has been unanimously positive and enthusiastic. The bus route will be diverted for the duration. The Closure will run from 1300hrs to 1900hrs (set up and clearing time) and the party from 1500hrs to 1800hrs.

Hopefully each road in the village will take over a bit of the Main Road or individual parties will find a convenient space to set up. Don't party by yourself, let's get together! Last year there was a gap in the middle of the closure: this year a cone will be placed in the centre (o/s No 24 Main Road) and we ask that people set up from the point marked by the cone and move outwards. Appointed marshals will be located at each end to monitor the road closures for Health and Safety purposes. Hopefully the houses along Main Road will put up bunting and park their vehicles off road, and if you can help decorate the street - wonderful...



Each group must provide all they need, including table, food, drink etc. The suggestion is enough food for your group and one other person so we can 'visit'. There will be a competition for a Diamond themed table - this can be patriotic or imaginative. We're not sure of prizes yet as we have no budget, and if available we will ask the Mayor of NWBC to judge.

If you have garden games bring them along, and if it rains have the British 'stiff upper lip':- put your waterproofs on, get a disposable BBQ, umbrella and PARTY.

Afterwards either pop and enjoy the Beer Festival at The Bird in Hand or continue the party at home or with friends.

Contact: Ellen, 50 Main Road

## Nature Notes — Butterflies of Central England

Spring is sprung and butterflies are surely on the wing, starting with those resident species which overwinter as adults. First off the starting block in March are the Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and unmistakable Brimstone. Following on in April are the Green Hairstreak; Green Veined, Small and Large Whites; Holly Blue, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood, and the first migrant Red Admirals. You may also see the less common Dingy and Grizzled Skippers in certain locations.

May and June are a veritable fluttering explosion of colour, with more species bursting in on the feast of food plants that the burgeoning Summer brings.

Sadly, UK butterfly numbers are falling, mainly due to habitat destruction and a shortage of food plants. So if you can, why not consider leaving a small area of thistles, nettles or brambles at the top of the garden. Or flowering buttercups,

clover or dandelions in the lawn? Some more plants for caterpillars and butterflies are listed below:

**Herbs:** Agrimony, Angelica, Betony, Garlic Mustard, Thyme, Marjoram, Pellitory-of-the-wall, Salad Burnet, Selfheal, Sorrel, Water Mint.

**"Garden" plants:** Bluebell, Broom, Buddleia, Bugle, Cowslip, Currants, Cuckooflower, Daisies, Dog Rose, Dogwood, Forget-me-not, Grasses (uncut), Heather, Holly, Honeysuckle, Ivy, Lavender, Mallow, Marigold, Nasturtium, Primrose, Privet, Ragged Robin, Red Campion, Rock Rose, Snowberry, Spindle, Teasel, Viola.

**Other plants:** Bent, Bird's Foot Trefoil, Charlock, Cock's Foot, Couch, Devil's Bit Scabious, False Brome, Fescue, Fleabane, Hawkweed, Hop, Knapweed, Tor & Meadow Grass, Meadow Vetchling, Garlic & Hedge Mustard, Ragwort, Vetch, Yorkshire Fog.

## Get Cosy: FREE Loft & Cavity Wall Insulation

Austrey residents can benefit from a free offer on loft and cavity wall insulation thanks to a partnership between the NWBC, Rockwarm, and the Energy Saving Trust.

The offer is open to homeowners and also to people living in private rented accommodation, regardless of age or income. The cavity wall insulation is for properties up to 120 sq/m in size, & loft insulation is for properties up to 80sq/m with under 60mm of existing insulation.

Home insulation can save up to £270 a year on fuel bills and reduce carbon emissions by 3,200 tonnes over 25 yrs.

Councillor John Winter said: " This is the first time we've been able to offer cavity wall and loft insulation to residents absolutely free. So I'd urge people to take advantage of this limited offer to create a warmer home, reduce fuel bills and help the environment. "

The offer runs until the end of June 2012. For more information and a free home insulation survey, call Rockwarm on 02476 345554 or call free on 0800 132689. [www.rockwarm.co.uk](http://www.rockwarm.co.uk)

For free impartial advice, call the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012 quoting "North Warwickshire Free Insulation".

## Austrey Arts and Community Festival 2012

Good news!! Arrangements for Austrey's first Arts Festival this year are developing really well and we have had a massive amount of interest with businesses and individuals coming forward with their contributions.

Austrey Arts Festival launches on Friday 6th July, kicking off with a concert. Then over the next fortnight, up until Sunday 15th July, will be a variety of workshops from scrapbooking, card making, Italian cookery, belly dancing and flower arranging. There will also be several exhibitions and demonstrations including wood carving, paintings and bell ringing. The Primary and Pre-School children will be making scarecrows both to exhibit and to sell. There will be several exciting shows, music bands and dances to see. Black Rat, a folk band, will be playing for us. We also have Morris Dancers, and let's not forget the WI's performance!

During the last weekend, we will be holding a Craft Fayre where there will be several stalls selling wood carved ornaments, glass jewellery and ornaments, cards and scrapbook materials.

The committee have been working very hard in order to obtain funding for this event. So far, we have identified a charity, 'Awards for All', run by The Lottery. This will enable us to advertise in the surrounding villages and small towns, to help towards exhibiting, selling and delivering the workshops.

There's certainly been lots of laughter in the large room at the village hall whilst we have been having our committee meetings! We are next meeting on the 21st March at 7.30 p.m. at the village hall. Please feel free to come along and hear more about our Austrey Arts Festival.

## Austrey & Warton Scouts: Going From Strength to Strength

This year has seen the Austrey and Warton Scout Group continue to grow. We have 20 Beavers meeting each Monday and some youngsters on the waiting list for when they are 5¾ yrs old.

We have 5 Cubs at the moment, with some of the Beavers starting to join them in June. We are working to attract more cubs (aged 8-10½ yrs) and have had some people express in interest in starting a Scout Troop (aged 10½ yrs).

This year has seen the Cubs and Beavers take part in a Night Hike around the village, have visits from the Police to talk about "Stranger Danger", been taught first aid, heard about scuba

diving and played lots of games! We are all going Bowling at the end of term and are finalising the details of some camps later in the year.

We have a very supportive group of leaders and helpers – many who are parents of members of the Group.

If you would like to get involved with the Group, or would like your children to see what we do, please come along to the School on Mondays from 5:45pm

For more information see <http://scouts.austrey.net>, email [scouts@austrey.net](mailto:scouts@austrey.net) or call Matthew Humphreys (Group Leader) on 01827 818061

## Austrey Village Hall Arts Group Meetings

We are looking to increase our numbers at our weekly Village Hall meetings which take place each Wednesday between 10.00am and 12.30pm.

Come and share your knowledge and skills or learn something new with a happy crowd of like-minded people.

Be it painting (in water, oils, pastels, acrylics) or perhaps cross stitch, tapestry or knitting, crochet, tatting or lace making or card making, there is art for everyone!

Do come and join us, we would love to see you. For more details, please call Jenny Key on 830 678

## Austrey Golf Society

A number of venues have been arranged for 2012, and are published in full on the Austrey website <http://www.austrey.co.uk/golf>

Upcoming events include golf on 29 March at Longcliffe Loughborough, 19 April at Druids Heath Walsall, 16 May at Kenilworth and 24 June at Kirby Muxloe.

New members are always welcome. For more information please contact either Steve Fenton on 830683 or Simon Connor on 830524.



Do you have a transport problem?

Would you like to take part in the Transport Survey from Beeline Community Transport?



The village shop has a supply of questionnaires behind the counter (as their display space is limited). They can also be downloaded from the Austrey Website or if you prefer the personal touch, give Katy Harper a ring on 01827 712278

## B&D Cleaning Services

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Overseal, Swadlincote DE12 6JF

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Mobile: 07929 041 227

## Mobile Fish & Chips



Matt and Emma arrive in the village around **6.30pm** each **Wednesday** evening.

Calling at: Main Road, St Nicholas Close, Elms court, Yew Tree Court, Warton Lane, Bishops Cleeve, Newborough Close, Flavel Court, Elms Drive and Hollybank Estate

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With the days growing warmer and longer we are looking forward to shooting at Hazel's Meadow. We have storage space for the field gear and will soon be signing an agreement with Austrey Rangers for the shared use of the field.

We hope to offer a training course for beginners in the not too distant future. All necessary equipment will be provided along with tea (coffee/soft drink) and biscuits. In addition the group will be putting on "Have-a-Go" days in the summer, where you can find out if archery is for you.

For more info contact Brian Grix on 830 363, email [bbgrix@btinternet.com](mailto:bbgrix@btinternet.com)

### Huxley Electrical Services

Electrical installation  
and test and inspection

**Tel: 01827 830 483**  
**Mob: 07766 800 784**

**Email: [terry.huxley@sky.com](mailto:terry.huxley@sky.com)**

Terry Huxley, 21 Orchard Close, Austrey

### Austrey Post Office & Store

Open 8am-8pm Mon-Sat  
9am-1pm Sunday

#### Not just for your everyday groceries!

We also sell confectionery,  
newspapers & magazines, greeting  
cards, wines & spirits, & much more.

**A friendly welcome assured from  
Paul and his team.**

### Austrey Walking Group

The Austrey Walking Group goes from strength to strength, with its weekly Friday walks around Austrey and surrounding villages. Walks usually last for 1.5 – 2.0 hours duration, commencing at 10.00 a.m., from the Baptist Chapel, Main Road.

2011 climaxed with 16 walkers and friends enjoying a pleasant walk to Orton-on-the-Hill and taking Christmas Lunch at the Unicorn Pub. 2012 has seen the group expand its numbers, with some 20 members now joined, not necessarily all walking at the same time, but averaging a group size of 10 – 12.

To increase the interest, walks are often combined with short bus trips (most pass holders) to Warton or Polesworth and thence along the Canal to either Grendon or Alvecote, Shuttington returning again to Austrey using the bus service. NWBC periodically arrange for Borough-wide walkers to travel further afield, and previous walks have taken place in Derbyshire (Cromford) and Clumber and Sherwood Forest. There is

a nominal cost for transport and usually a meal is arranged after the walk. In 2012 the Borough is looking to organise walks to South Warwickshire (April/May) and another location, as yet not identified in September.

If you are interested in some gentle exercise and stimulation, why not come and join us?

Stan Orton (830487)

### Easter Fun Afternoon— Children's Event

The Parish of All Souls are organising a Fun Afternoon with activities for children aged between 4 -11 on Saturday 31st March as part of our Easter preparations and celebration.

It is being held in Warton Parish Room from 2pm – 4pm with refreshments being served afterwards as the parents return to collect their children. For more details contact Revd Stephen Banks (839022).

### Bunnies Don't Lay Eggs ! How the Rabbit Fits into Easter

Ever stopped to wonder why the Easter Bunny looks after the egg ?

Rabbits and hares are often confused and, unlike burrowing rabbits, hares live their entire life above ground. Hares rest in a 'form', an area they usually scrape bare of vegetation. The shallow depression which results may be lined with their own fur, for their young to keep snug. Folklore confusion between hares' forms and plovers' nests provide the end of this excellent link!



The egg is widely used as a symbol of the start of new life, both in Christianity and many other religions.

One fun activity for this Easter is making "pace" eggs. These are hens eggs boiled with onion skins, which impart a strong tan colour. You can also try wrapping leaves (eg ferns) around the egg and tying on with string before boiling, to give an interesting finished pattern. Red cabbage also produces a good dye.

Enjoy your egg for breakfast!

## 2hr Circular Walk - Austrey to Warton - by Mike Smith

1/ Walk through the church yard and through the small wooden gate at the far right hand corner. Turn left and keep to the left side of the pasture (passing a pond on your left, which was very dry on our walk!) Way markers are well situated and take you through the hedge into a field of young poplars. Through a wooden gate in the hedge and onto the road.

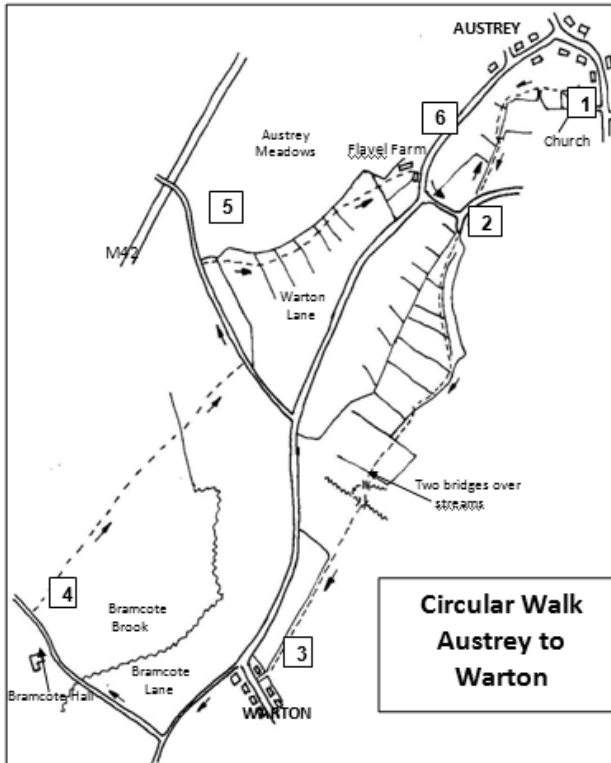
2/ Turn right along the road and bear left along a lane with gates and into a field. Keep walking on the same bearing alongside a hedge on your left. You now pass through a number of small fields each with a gate in the hedge. Keep to the left edge of the fields until a yellow way marker indicates a gate through the hedge on your left. Bear right and way markers show the way clearly. Over two bridges and straight over the headland of the next field to the hedge opposite. Walk alongside the hedge into Warton.

3/ The path passes between houses onto Warton Lane. Turn right and then after a couple of hundred metres left along Bramcote Lane. Follow the lane right and over Bramcote Brook and past remains of Bramcote Hall.

4/ Just past Bramcote Hall turn right down a track across a wide open field, over the Brook again and keep straight on to a farm track. Turn left towards the motorway.

5/ Before the motorway a yellow way marker indicates the path to the right. Be careful not to keep too far to the left of the field. Look for the gates and plank bridges leading through the hedges between the small fields that are Austrey Meadows. The last pasture is by Flavel Farm. Beyond the bungalow on your right there is a stile which leads onto Warton Lane

6/ Turn right along the road. In about a hundred metres take the left turn at the road junction and shortly another left. Find the way marker on the left and go through the gate in the hedge to find the path on which you started the walk to take you back into Austrey.



## Village Hall News

Hello from the small committee of Austrey village hall. At the AGM on Feb 23rd our Chairperson Mrs Sheila Lashford announced she would be resigning from the committee due to her work commitments, which have taken her away from the village. We are very sorry to lose such a valuable member of the team, who handled all the early legalities during the hand over period of the hall. We wish her Bon Voyage and Good Luck in her new life.

The exhibition staged in the small room of the village hall, in November 2011 attracted many visitors and presented them with the opportunity to see how much work has been completed so far. They could also meet the architect Mr Peter Sheen, and discuss the plans for future improvements. The result of these open meetings will be reviewed by the committee as we apply for major funding at the beginning of 2012. Thank you to all villagers who attended, your support and comments are of great value to the committee.

Our major fund raiser the "Black Tie Burns Night Dinner" on Saturday 28th January 2012 was, we believe, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Guests were greeted with canapés and a "Tot" of Whisky or Sherry, followed by an eight course dinner with a Scottish theme. The hall was dressed with a massive "Stone" fireplace over which hung a large Stag's Head; Cartwheel Lights hung from the ceiling and Tartan cloths adorned the walls and tables. The whole hall was lit by Candlelight and we "Addressed the Haggis" although without the sound of Bagpipes (a little technical hitch), but with the gathering singing and applauding with great gusto and creating a memorable evening. A profit of just over £800.00 was raised to swell our funds and the committee would like to say a big thank you to all our guests for their generosity.



In November of last year, we were given a "Silver Community Building," award by Warwickshire Rural Communities Council for the work undertaken to restore this lovely old building. The committee would like to thank all the volunteers, who so generously gave their time and effort to this project. The maintenance of the building still continues on a day to day basis but we hope you agree we now have a refurbished hall, owned by the village, managed by a small trustee committee and complete with many facilities.

Now our hall is clean, warm and bright with new windows, doors and an 'indoor Toilet' facility, we wish to encourage new users. Why not book for your special party? We have lots of catering equipment which is **included** in the hall hire.

Come to see for yourselves and maybe make a booking. Contact Joan on 830658 for reservations.

## AusFREE Service Now Online at <http://www.austrey.co.uk/>



You might have heard of sites like “Freebay” or “Freegle”, which enable people to give away or receive unwanted items. These sites are great but using them can be difficult since we in Austrey are on the border of four counties, meaning you often have to search in several areas to find what you are looking for.

AusFREE provides the same service, through the medium of the Austrey Parish Council website (<http://www.austrey.co.uk/AusFREE> ).

You may not want your old fridge, curtains, granny’s china, or those old pots or pallets cluttering up the garden any more, but there may be someone else in Austrey or in the local area who does. Don’t throw it away – give it away!

AusFREE offers a way to help people in our local community, keep anything reusable out of landfill and save you a trip to the tip.

All you need to do is register on as a member at [www.austrey.co.uk](http://www.austrey.co.uk), enter the details of the item/ items you are offering or the item/ items that you want, including details of how you would like to be contacted (by email or telephone). Anyone visiting the site can see your offer or wanted ad and can contact you and make arrangements to collect/ deliver the item.

## Austrey Neighbourhood Watch

Be alert! Home burglary is on the increase- almost one house per day on average, so keep your doors locked!

If you see anything suspicious note the details down—vehicle numbers, descriptions of strangers—and report it to the police. A call to 101 costs just 15pence (non-emergency situations only). Use 999 for all emergency calls.

Car crime is also increasing, especially the theft of number plates and fuel from your tank. Apply for anti-tamper proof screws FREE. Catalytic converters are also being targeted and overnight on 27 into 28 February the catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked outside a home on Main Road.

Do not give personal bank details to any one where they could be used illegally, and possibly to steal money from your accounts.

If you are the owner of a horse, please consider

joining the Warwickshire Horse Watch, to help deter horse related crime which is also occurring in our area.

Neighbourhood watch is **completely free to join**. For more details, contact Beryl Grix on 830363 or Darren Greally on 830650.

We currently have more than 30 members in Austrey but are always looking for more people to join us.

Next Area meetings are on 15th March at Atherstone Partnership centre and 17th May at the Grimstock Hotel, Coleshill, 7.30pm start. ALL WELCOME

For up to date information see: [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## Newton Regis Tennis Club

NRTC is a thriving club with 50+ members, many of whom are from Austrey. We have two floodlit tarmac courts that were resurfaced a couple of years ago. The club’s year starts in March and all are welcome to join. The club has a number of ongoing activities including:

- 3 teams in Burton Tennis Leagues
- Annual Open American Tournament
- Annual Members Tournaments: including knockout, mini-league, and handicap competitions
- Club night every Friday evening
- Wimbledon ticket ballot.

More details on membership rates can be found on the Austrey village website. Whether you wish to play just with your friends or play in one of the teams, you will be very welcome.

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## Possible Threat to Hamlet Mobile Library in Austrey

Austrey Parish Council have recently been notified by Warwickshire CC of a possible threat to our much loved friendly “Hamlet” library service. A review of the service will shortly be undertaken, and if the number of regular customers drops below 4 people then the service at that stop will be withdrawn.

We cannot stress strongly enough that this is yet another of our rural services which is subject to ‘Use It Or Lose It’ criteria. If the Hamlet Austrey stops were removed, the Rural Home Delivery service would be offered instead. This service is available to any resident who is unable to get to the library, and whose friends and relations are also unable to visit the library on their behalf.

**Hamlet Mobile Library:** for books in large or ordinary print, picture books, children’s books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, Westerns, romance, talking books. Also available: cassettes or CDs, jigsaw puzzles.

Library contact no: 01926 851 031.

**Times & Dates** (A=arrive, D=depart)

|                   |         |         |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Newton Regis Lane | A 10.35 | D 10.50 |
| Layby Main Road   | A 11.10 | D 11.40 |
| Bird in Hand      | A 11.45 | D 12.05 |

Every 3rd Wednesday: March 28th, Apr 18th, May 9th & 30th, Jun 20th

## Photo Competition with £50 Prize

NWBC has launched a photo competition with two age categories — age 16 and under, and age 17 and over. There is a prize of £50 for the best photo in each category. To enter you just need to take a photo of anywhere in North Warwickshire on one or more of the following subjects: villages and village life, countryside and country parks, places to visit, or people.

- 1/ Complete the online form at [www.northwarks.gov.uk/flicker](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk/flicker)
- 2/ Make sure you have permission from

any people in the photos for them to appear (see T&Cs on the above site)  
3/ Don't digitally enhance your photo.

What a great opportunity to record those things of importance to us in and around Austrey! Maybe you could consider including in your entry some photos of the areas under threat from the potential HS2 'Y' route, or from the potential wind turbine installation. Even if they're not winners, there's no limit on your number of entries, and it may be our last chance before these landscapes are lost forever

## Ramble On About ... The Ethics of Cleanliness

It's amazing how a small minority can spoil things for the majority.

Take those who let their dogs foul the pavement and verges. Do they stop to consider the consequences of their actions? Last year I saw a child slip and fall, hands first, into a smeared and stinking pile of it. Now imagine how you would feel, if that was your child or grandchild.

And as for litter, how difficult is it to place it in the nearest bin? Why, when I walk through Austrey, do I see empty sweet and cigarette packets, fast food wrappers, and tin cans, that some brain-dead gormless cretin has thoughtlessly dropped ?

Here's a statistic for you: the annual direct cost to the UK taxpayer of clearing up litter is around £858m - the equivalent of £33 for every household in Britain. This is money that Councils could have spent improving transport services, providing more nursery and school places, looking after elderly people, or employing police constables.

Litter is not only nasty, smelly and unsightly, but it can injure wildlife, farm animals and pets. In 2007 the CPRE reported that over 69,000 animals were killed or injured by litter.



Caring about these things, bagging and binning to keep Austrey clean and tidy, is an important part of community spirit and ethics, and pride in our village.

For more information about the Clean up Britain Campaign see <http://www.cleanupbritain.org/>

## Village Plan Update

Quite a few of the wishes of the villagers are being achieved and the Parish Council is working hard to improve the facilities in the village while retaining as far as possible its rural identity. Below are a few 'sound bite' updates:

Transport services have been reduced: luckily Beeline (01827717074) is still operational to assist villagers—much cheaper than a taxi! Measham Medical Unit also provides a dedicated service on a Thursday morning, and repeat prescription delivery every 4weeks.

Recently the Parish Council has decided to buy two more grit bins. The Borough is also gritting an extra area of Main Road up to the Village Hall.

A village centre, including information about Austrey and more seating around

the village is under review, along with a possible bus shelter on Bishops Cleeve. Improved street lighting is ongoing as funding permits.

Neighbourhood Watch and Horse Watch are looking for new members, contact Beryl Grix for details (830363).

Some vocational classes have been tried but due to lack of support have not continued. We are hoping others will be organised. Scouting is now at our village school each Monday evening.

The BMX track at the Austrey Playing Fields has had limited success, and we are hoping to secure more support for improvement of facilities. We are also hoping to welcome the 'Sport4All' team from NWBC back to the Playing Field over the summer holidays.



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## High Speed Rail Update

The line from London to Birmingham got the government go-ahead on 10th January, but the “Y” route which could affect Austrey is not being presented to government until the end of March. It is anticipated that it will be May or even June before a public announcement is made.

Many people feel that the results of the 2011 consultation have been side-stepped and much debate continues regarding the strength of the business case, and how 18 trains/hour can be justified. There is also concern regarding the “green image” of the trains, given the higher fuel needs of high speed rail.

The fight goes on and members of 51M (the councils opposing HS2) have given warning of judicial review of the decision to go ahead. 51M believe that their proposed alternatives would give improvements much sooner and more economically in these austere times. We await the outcome with interest.

The local “Polesworth and District Action Group” will hold its AGM towards the end of April. The details will be publicised on the village noticeboard and website nearer to the date. Please come along if you feel strongly about this proposal.



## The Awfulisers – M Leunig

Every night and every day  
The awfulisers work away,  
Awfulising public places,  
Favourite things and little graces;  
Awfulising lovely treasures,  
Common joys and simple pleasures;  
Awfulising far and near  
The parts of life we held so dear:  
Democratic, clean and lawful,  
Awful, awful, awful, awful.



Cartoon © Ken Pyne/The Oldie

## Open Show 2012

Austrey's Open Show will take place on Saturday, 1st September in the Village Hall, two weeks later than in previous years.



Many new competitions have been included to make the show fun to enter, especially for the children.

There will also be different cake recipes to try, including one to challenge the village's male bakers.

All will be revealed in the show schedule, which will be distributed later in the year. We hope you will want to take part on the day.

## Review of George Eliot hospital paediatric unit

The Arden Cluster Trust, which oversees the George Eliot hospital, is planning to launch a consultation exercise into the future of Paediatric and Maternity services. The options being considered are:

1) Move inpatient paediatrics and complicated births to University Hospital in Coventry, with a midwifery-led unit and short stay children's ward in Nuneaton.

2) Transfer all inpatient children's services and complicated births to University Hospital, with a midwifery-led unit at George Eliot.

3) Switch all inpatient paediatrics and births to Coventry, with a children's assessment unit in Nuneaton.

4) Move all inpatient paediatrics and births to University Hospital in Coventry.

5) Transfer all inpatient children's

services to Coventry, with all maternity services and a paediatric assessment unit remaining at George Eliot.

It is feared that some of the changes could stretch the already busy maternity unit at University Hospital, while leaving north Warwickshire bereft of services.

In addition, as a worst case scenario, loss of the services could lead

to the complete closure of the George Eliot if it fails to find a partner and reach Foundation Trust Status by 2014.

A petition called “Save our Hospital” has been started by Warwickshire County Councillor Barry Longden. This is currently on hold due to the postponement of the public consultation, which is now expected to start in May.

Austrey Parish Council will keep you updated via the website and newsletter.



## Talk at Measham Medical

Measham Medical Unit is planning to hold a number of health talks during the summer months.

The first of these will take place on 17th April at 7pm at MMU. Dr Gravestock will be explaining the new government initiative for a NHS Health Check Scheme. Refreshments will be available.

As other talks are arranged, we will publish the dates on the Austrey website. [www.austrey.co.uk](http://www.austrey.co.uk)

## Open Gardens 2012

Austrey Open Gardens are planned for 7th & 8th July, at the mid-point of the Austrey Arts festival. The event raises money for projects at St Nicholas Church, the Village Hall & the Baptist Chapel. We really hope that we can hold this important village event, but with only 5 gardens currently due to open, we really need some more willing volunteers. If you would be prepared to open can you please let me know on 839022.

Thank you—Sally Banks

## News from the Bird in Hand

In a previous article we laid out our aims for the Bird to be not only a great place to eat and drink, but to become more and more a pub that is the hub of the village, supporting the local community.

We hope we have achieved the first aim – our real ales continue to receive top marks for quality and our food menus are constantly evolving thanks to our chef, Paul. At lunchtime we offer light bites and a range of rustic sandwiches. Our evening menu is wide and varied containing many home-made dishes: we also have a range of specials. We have tried many mid-week offers, and at present we have Steak Night on Wednesdays and Curry Night on Thursdays.

Our community involvement continues to grow. We still support Austrey Rangers, providing sausages & chips free of charge to home and away teams, and by raising money for them through the raffle on our fortnightly Monday Quiz Nights. In preparation for Bonfire Night, we worked with the ACG/ Hazel Meadow Allotments and raised money for the fireworks through our Saturday Bonus Ball competition.

Particularly successful have been the trips Gareth has organised. We will never forget the riotous visit to Edgbaston to watch England play India. The enjoyment of the cricket took second place to the entertainment provided by the Barmy Army, in their songs, chants and outrageous costumes! And how can we forget the hilarious ride home in the double-decker with Gareth directing the driver and trying to avoid all low bridges. (It's easy if you go through Kingsbury, Dosthill, A5, Dordon, Polesworth, left at Linden Lodge, Little Warton and, finally, Orton-on-the-Hill.) A great time was had by all – except the driver! There is another cricket trip to Nottingham in May which is already over-subscribed with some 90 people wanting to go – it must be the fantastic breakfast prior to the trip!

In December, Heidi suggested a trip to the German Market, which Gareth organised. A great time was had by all – including the robust and very enthusiastic singing on the journey home! These trips have been great at encouraging bonding within the village community and we would welcome suggestions for others.

Our theme nights continue to be very successful with Paul and Lorna serving up great food for our Christmas Tapas and Italian Taster Night in February. The next one will be a Spanish Night in April. We're hoping for a good turnout on Mothers' Day (18 March) with one mother treated to a free main course (min. party of 4). We are also looking forward to taking a full part the Austrey Arts Weekend in July and are holding a Beer Festival and contributing in any way we can.

Finally, if anyone can suggest any other ways the Bird can help the village community, please let us know!

Graham Griffiths



## Bringing Superfast Broadband to Rural Areas

Warwickshire County Council need your help. The money available from public funds will not be sufficient to solve the current problem with broadband speeds for the whole sub-region, and so telecoms providers who tender for the work will be expected to make their own investment of at least twice the amount that is available from public funds. They will not be doing this out of the goodness of their heart, and are likely to prioritise those areas that are able to show the greatest demand. So—what can you do to help?

1/ Complete our survey. If you have not already done so please complete the broadband survey that is located at <http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/> - there is one survey for domestic use and one for business use, so if you run a business or work from home please do both. The more people that respond from a given area the higher priority it will be.

2/ Become a Champion. We are looking for Community Champions to help us to get our message out to rural communities. The role will include. A) Putting posters up on local noticeboards. B) Delivering flyers to households. C) Providing hard copies of the surveys to those who are unable to access them on-line. D) Delivering presentations to local groups about the project (but only if you feel comfortable with this!). To express an interest in becoming a Champion, please email your name, address (with postcode) and telephone number to [broadband@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Your help could make all the difference to your village getting superfast broadband!**

## Hazel Meadow Allotment Group Update

After the successful bonfire, the Hazel Meadow Allotment Group is starting its annual cycle again with gardeners digging and preparing the land for this year's crop. Hopefully we will not get the promised drought and the rabbits will travel elsewhere for sustenance.

Should you have any queries or wish to be placed on the waiting list for an allotment please do not hesitate to contact us. We are a sociable group who share plants and freely give each other advice - mainly welcome advice

Mick Beeson

We are looking to secure funding to improve the fencing and ensure it is rabbit proof and safe for children and hope to develop other projects over the year – we will keep the village updated

We are working with the Parish Council to prepare a lease for the land on Hazel Meadow and look forward to our arrangement being formalised.

***Austrey Parish Council would like to thank Hazel Meadow Allotments for generously buying the 2011 Christmas Tree. Funds for this came from some of the profits from the last year's bonfire and firework display, organised by HMA/ ACG. Hazel Meadow Allotments hope to run more village events in future.***

## Austrey Pre-School News

We are very busy here at Austrey Pre-school getting our allotment ready for planting. The children have been planting seeds and getting our potatoes ready.



We are also planning to plant some fruit trees to celebrate the Jubilee.

We are hoping to open up the allotment on the Open Gardens weekend for everyone to have a look at the great work the children have been doing. We are also very excited to announce we are having an artist from Weave recycling to come and work with the children to make scarecrows to decorate the allotment ready for the Village Arts Festival.

If anyone has any plants they would like to donate we will make good use of them. All of the produce we grow gets eaten either at pre-school at snack time or sent back with the children to try at home.



Lisa Hand—Manager

## Austrey C.E. Primary School News

The school year is always busy, but since September, we seem to have been non stop with activities, projects and events to enhance the education of our children and the environment in which they learn.

In September and October, we celebrated **Harvest** in a number of ways: Produce from the **school garden** was harvested and used to make a variety of dishes and produce including soups, jams, chutneys and salads. Our mature **apple tree** was laden with fruit from which we made pies, crumbles and cakes. We held an **“Apple Day”** where children took part in lots of fun apple games like apple bobbing and sold the produce they made.

We also welcomed three newcomers to school, our resident **chickens**, who have happily laid an egg each most days which the children take home or use in their cooking lessons.

Our P.T.A, FACES (Friends of Austrey CE Primary School) held an **Autumn Fair**, raising funds which enabled us to purchase a new computer trolley and some technical equipment for the classrooms.

A designated grant for **building improvements** was used for an extension to our small admin. office, a shelter to the entrance and new carpets.

In November and December, the main focus was Christmas. Our annual **performance**, in which every child in school took part, was a huge success. This year, the juniors performed songs, dances and acted brilliantly to the story “The Stars Come Out for Christmas”, supported by the infants who performed

the Nativity part of the play beautifully.

The **party** for the children included a magic show and fun games provided by one of our parents (Montana Events). **Santa** even found time to drop by to give a present to every child. A **Christmas dinner** was served to all the children and at the end of term, carols were sung in church at a lovely family service, led by Rev. Banks and the children.

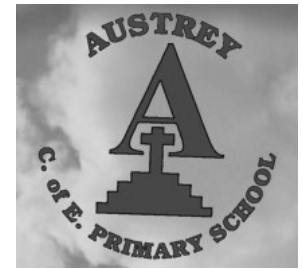
January and February was also a good time for improvements to the school building, when we used more of the designated building improvement grant to have **more new carpets** fitted in the classrooms. We were also successful in obtaining a fund which we bid for, giving us new **computer equipment** in every classroom. This now means that every child can use a computer at some point each day if required.

FACES` funds were used to buy reading **and spelling resources** through a matched funding scheme, meaning school could get twice as many items for their money.

March and April will be a time for celebrating World Book Day, Lent, Easter ..... June and July, The Queen`s Diamond Jubilee and The Olympics ... And so it goes on.....

We have lots more projects planned for the rest of the year and are grateful for the support of our community which makes much of this possible!

Ann Parsons—Head teacher





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