

The Austrey News

Dec 18 - Jan 19



Christmas Lights Switch-on

The most wonderful time of the year kicks-off in Austrey on **Saturday, 1st December at 6pm**, as Father Christmas switches on the village Christmas tree lights.

Austrey Parish Council would like to invite you all to join us at the corner of St Nicholas Close and Main Road for this fantastic Christmas treat. There will be Christmas carols around the tree, mince pies, mulled wine, and good cheer!

Children will be able to meet Santa and decorate the tree with a decoration they personalise themselves.

This cheerful and popular event is now in its 3rd year, and is a lovely way to start your celebration of the festive season.

Everyone is welcome.

Lynsey Treadwell



Austrey Bonfire and Fireworks Sparkle as Always!

The fire was lit prior to the event so everyone could enjoy the benefits (and in case it was difficult to light!) and once again Jonathon's Fireworks gave an excellent display. The live bands entertained and the bar, BBQ, hot soup and mulled wine warmed everyone up. The weather did not let us down this year, although it was a little windy.

Once again numerous enthusiastic helpers expended a huge amount of effort to put on the annual bonfire at Austrey. Our thanks go to Austrey Stores, Maypole in Warton, 4 Shires Farm Shop and The Bird in Hand for selling so many tickets, the leaflet distributors who flooded the local villages, the bonfire builders, cooks, bar staff, safety officers, dogsbodies and sponsors whose combined efforts mean that profit is ploughed back into the local community. Please support us again next year and if you have any ideas to improve the format, want to offer sponsorship, or would like to help out, you will be welcomed with open arms.

It was great to see so many of the newer residents enjoying one of the annual village events. If you have a worthy local cause please make contact as, after provision is made for next years fireworks, profits are disseminated within the Parish. What a fantastic community event!

Ellen Beaty



HS2 — Have Your Say

I went to the HS2 presentation at Austrey village hall on November 7th. It was put on with the help of Craig Tracey our MP. Craig is a committed opponent of HS2. When I spoke with him of my concerns about HS2, and the planned closure of the road from Newton Regis to Austrey, he suggested I write to HS2 to demand that they come up with a design which would allow the road to remain as is. This is something we can all do if we feel so minded.

Have you seen the latest HS2 maps? If not then please Google **HS2 Phase 2b WDES volume 2 map book: Birchmoor to Austrey** and select the option beginning with the link "https://www.gov.uk". You will see the latest maps pertaining to Austrey and surrounding areas. Pages 32 to 35 are full of surprises. Page 32 shows the permanent closure and re-routing of Newton Lane. It also shows a huge construction compound. Google now: then write or email or freephone HS2 and give them an earful!

Email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk — Freephone: 08081 434 434 — Post: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd, Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA

Brian Grix

Notes from the Village Hall

Or A Christmas Carol (with apologies to Mr Dickens)

"Old Marley was as dead as a doornail", which has nothing to do with what follows apart from the fact we have some of his tiles in the annex. I, dear reader, am writing this on a clear-blue, sunny but cold October day. So, all that follows is conjecture and forecast, as seen through the lens of my rather dodgy crystal ball with the aid of some spectral assistants:

Okay, so *The Ghost of Hall Events Past* and I see that you all got wet at the village bonfire and that it blew a gale (I'm putting a lot of faith in the BBC Weather App here) but weren't the hot drinks good! and so very cheap! I hope you all enjoyed the hot chocolate supplied by the Village Hall Team who hopefully raised a few quid for the fund. Aaah, the crystal ball is clouding and filling with sparks and smoke...

Oh..., the crystal ball is clearing again! It's the 24th of November 2018, I see the remnants of a finger buffet, some hoarse choristers, and many, many empty bottles. It looks like The Mercian Choir once again provided an evening of musical entertainment in the Hall and Stan made it even more memorable by working his magic with the bottles and cans.

I can feel my predictive powers waning, it's all going dark. If *The Ghost of Hall Events Present* were to supply a drop of the hard stuff, perhaps they'd return? Oh, thank you, Diet Coke (not quite what I had in mind) still needs must!

Aaah, yes **Saturday 2 February 2019**, a **Village Feast** of gargantuan proportions. A Caribbean theme; rum, prawns, mango, jerk chicken, plantain and such like. You've all heard about the Annual Feast, lots of courses, great food, appropriately themed drinks and that queen of entertainment Tombola and her consort Raffle. I'm positively moist with anticipation!

The picture is rather fuzzy and, at this distance, I don't have all of the details but brace yourselves for a naive and inappropriately colourful poster coming soon to a telegraph pole near you. *The Ghost of Hall Events Yet To Come* has, however, allowed me one glimpse through the veil: tickets are available after Christmas from **Chris Moss (830302)** and **Joan Ainscow (830658)**.

This event is always a sell out event so don't delay, buy today!

Chris Wynne

Austrey's Local — But Can We Go Live?

In many ways Austrey to has much to be thankful for: a superb rural location, relative affluence, good housing and a regular daytime bus service. However, these advantages come at a price; its size and location are unattractive to event promoters, which restricts the options for entertainment within the village. That's fine for those with the time and cash to go elsewhere but what of the people of middle years who have gravitated to the village and then matured into a less active and often isolated old age? Are they really going to risk the vagaries of the bus service, or taxis on winter nights? Similarly, the teen and pre-teen population are equally disadvantaged and are dependent on mum or dad's taxi.

You might be surprised to discover that the Government (both right and left) are aware of these problems and are willing to fund solutions. The Warwickshire variant is a scheme called "Live & Local" it uses Arts Council funding to subsidise live performance in rural communities; as they say in their blurb "Surprising Shows in Surprising Places". What they offer is a diverse programme of entertainment running through dance and music, to stage and drama and including the occasionally downright bizarre. Moreover, there are hundreds of acts to choose from every year. I have experience of a similar scheme in Nottinghamshire where a village half the size of Austrey was able to offer plays, comedy acts straight from the Edinburgh Fringe and outstanding pop, jazz and folk performers all for less than £10 a ticket.

The Austrey Village Hall Committee see that Live and Local chimes with their charitable mission of providing a facility for use by the whole village and are beginning the process of having the Hall registered as a promoter venue for Live and Local events. If all goes well we should be able to bid for performances once the 2019/20 bidding process starts in March 2019. Our intention is to start small and bring one perhaps two acts to the village in the first year. In order to do so we need your support, please, please look out for our publicity material and support the venture by buying tickets and attending the show - who knows? you might even enjoy it.



As ever the pupils, staff and parents at Austrey have been involved in all sorts of activities which help make the school a focal point of the village, and I am sure this half term will be no different.

Pupils from all years have been involved in many sports and the way they compete is a real credit to them. Our tag rugby team, cross country team and football team have all held their own against much bigger schools locally. In addition to this some pupils were involved in a mini triathlon event and were very privileged to meet Olympic Medallists, the Brownlee brothers. Again the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event and were extremely excited to have their pictures taken with Alistair and Jonny.

It's not just sport that we are proud of. We currently have a number of pupils working hard with our sister school Newton Regis to prepare for the Young Voices event in Birmingham. They sound amazing and can't wait to get there and do us proud! There are many opportunities for after school clubs at Austrey and all the pupils enjoy the extra-curricular clubs run by external providers and members of staff.

We hope that has given you a flavour of life at Austrey CofE School and if you know anyone who is after a school place for their child please come tell them to take a look around our wonderful school.

Best wishes, Mr Lee Kilkenny, Headteacher



Newton Regis Tennis Club News

We are very pleased to announce that our mixed doubles team came 2nd in the league, securing a promotion spot. Well done to everyone who played and helped behind the scenes.

Even though we are into frosty mornings and dark nights, don't forget we have flood lights. Lessons and games are still ongoing, soon it will be time to don the gloves!

As always we welcome new members, young and old, contact **Angela Turner 07552 785477, turnertingay@gmail.com**. Private and group lessons are available with our coach **Darren Scutt** available on **07513 555798**.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year from everyone at Newton Regis Tennis Club.



Austrey Archery Group

As winter approaches, the group has now moved into Shuttington and Alvecote Village Hall for its shoots, which take place at 1.30pm on Saturday afternoons. Although we cannot get our normal long shoots of up to 30 metres, nevertheless the hall is long enough for members to practice and improve.

Performance of members has improved during the summer months as we have introduced a grade system. We need to achieve a satisfactory performance level at 20 metres before being allowed to shoot at 30 metres and then to 40 metres. This is done on an individual basis at members' own time, so there is no pressure, but it has resulted in better focus and thereby better performance levels.

Before being allowed to shoot, would-be archers have to undergo a course of training. This is held on four consecutive Saturdays. Our next course will be held in the New Year. If you would like take up the sport, please contact us at **austreyarcherygroup@hotmail.co.uk**, leave your contact details and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Archery is a great sport that is suitable for all ages and levels of fitness. And Austrey Archery Group is a very friendly club. Why not consider joining us?

Bob Patchett



Community Timeline

Events and activities for your calendar



Elderly or Mobility Restricted and Looking to Get Fit?

Measham Leisure Centre offers a seated aerobics class, running on **Tuesday mornings at 11.30am**. The class lasts for an hour and costs £2.80 - all abilities welcome.

The **Local History Cafe** at the Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna starts up again on **26th Feb 2019**. New group members are welcome. There is a small transport budget for local residents.

Local History Cafes are monthly heritage and wellbeing get togethers for over 50s at risk of loneliness. Each session costs only £3 and includes tea and cake, a speaker on topics decided on by the group, and often a linked activity if there's time after discussions.

www.localhistorycafe.tumblr.com
Tel: Heather on 07803 586805
email: heather.griffin@sirjohnmoore.org.uk

Walking for Health

Why not join a small friendly group to have a walk in various areas around Austrey and local villages? We meet every **Friday** morning at **10am** at the **Baptist Chapel, Austrey**. The walks are sponsored by NWBC.

Austrey Baptist Chapel Christmas Services

Carol Service **9th Dec.** at **3pm** will be taken by Rev Brian White. All welcome for mince pies afterwards.

The **9.30am Christmas morning** service will be taken by Debbie Chard. Come and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas with us!

All other Sundays, 10.45am service. Austrey Baptist Church extends a warm welcome to all.
Church Secretary: **Anita Allsopp**
01827 830086.

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone from **SS Michael & James Church, Haunton**. Come & join us for Mass on **24th December 8.00pm** and/or **10.30am on Christmas Day**.

If you are can't join us at Christmas, why not come along on the **first Saturday of each month at 12.15pm**, followed by tea, coffee and refreshments in the Church Hall. Have a joyful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Austrey Bridge Club meets every **Monday** (apart from Bank Holidays) at **7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

We are a mixed ability club playing rubber bridge in a friendly sociable atmosphere. If you can play bridge why not come and join us? No partner needed.

Our **Christmas Party** takes place on **Monday 17th December** and both present & past members are invited to come along and join in the fun.

For more information tel **Sue Oliver** on **830337** or email **Peter Oliver** on pjroliver@btinternet.com

Raise your voices at the annual **carol sing-along** around the stone cross outside the **Bird in Hand** - lyrics are provided!



Squash will be free for the children, and the usual range of drinks will be on sale for adults, with the addition of some warming festive mulled wine! Event takes place on **Christmas Eve at 4pm**.

Christmas Services in the Parish of All Souls

Carols by Candlelight
6.00pm Sunday December 16th
All Saints, SECKINGTON
6.00pm Sunday December 23rd
St. Nicholas, AUSTREY

Family Nativity Service
10.30am Sunday December 16th
Holy Trinity, WARTON (with carols and with an opportunity for children to take part in the Nativity)

Christmas Eve Christingle Service
5.00pm Holy Trinity, WARTON
6.15pm St. Mary, NEWTON REGIS

Christmas Eve Services
9.00pm Christmas Communion
St. Matthew, SHUTTINGTON
11.30pm Midnight Communion
Holy Trinity, WARTON

Christmas Day Services
9.00am Christmas Communion
All Saints, SECKINGTON
10.00am Family Christmas
Communion St. Nicholas, AUSTREY

For more information about events and services in the Parish of All Souls why not visit our website?

www.allsoulsnorthwarwickshire.co.uk

Austrey & Warton Scouts

As usual we've had a busy few weeks with lots of calendar events to participate in. We are delighted to welcome new members to all of our sections and are pleased how well they have settled in the Scout family.

Beavers have been working (some may say beavering) away this term making soap carvings and practising bridge building. They went bonkers for conkers and have also made snail and bug hotels, but the absolute favourite was the apple bobbing and Mummy fashion show.



Cubs meanwhile have enjoyed a night hike around the village whilst continuing to work hard towards their Cyclist and Navigator badges. They are now working towards their skills and DIY badges and are really looking forward to the Christmas at Hogwarts camp in December. We would also like to welcome a new Cub Leader, Karl, who has joined us this term.

Scouts have continued to work towards their cycling badges (apologies to those people that have been stuck behind slow moving Scouts on the hills out of Austrey on a Monday night). They have learnt how to change wheels and fix punctures which has been great fun.



Scouts and Cubs were also lucky enough to have a visit from Austrey's own RSPCA officer, Hershey, and were enthralled with her stories and very grateful to her for her time which gave the troop lots to think and talk about.

Finally there was a well-attended Bonfire and Firework family fun night on 05/11 where it was great to welcome lots of the troops' friends and family. A great time was had by all as they watched the

fireworks, warmed themselves over the fire pit and enjoyed the wonderful variety of food that was on offer.

If your child is interested in joining any of the sections, (Beavers for 6 – 8.5 year olds; Cubs 8.5 – 10.5 year olds and Scouts, 10.5 – 14.5 year olds) we would always be delighted to have them. Please contact our Group Scout Leader **Fiona** on **07939 114360**. Also if you'd like to volunteer to help out we are always grateful for any additional support. We thank our existing helpers for all that they do to ensure the smooth running of all of the packs.

Sam Goldney

Austrey WI will be holding a Christmas Workshop on Saturday 8th December, 9.30 till 2pm. There will be coffee, tea, and biscuits on arrival plus a 2-course hot lunch for £10 per person. Come and join in—we have such a laugh trying to make Christmas wreaths and table decorations. It's very informal and you don't have to be a member to join in the fun. Need more information as to what to bring? Call **Pat Lamb** on **01827 83915**

WI meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at Austrey village hall. A full programme of speakers and activities will be available in the new year. We welcome visitors to our monthly meeting and hope to see you in the future.

The next **Coffee & Chat** is a Christmas buffet on **18th December** from **12 till 2pm** at Austrey village hall. All welcome.

NWBC will be collecting bins on a Wednesday (as usual) over the festive season. However, there will be no black bin collection on Wednesday 26 December.

The next black bin collection will be on 2nd January. The collection on 9th January will then be green and red bins, as per the usual collection pattern.



Festive Phone Box

For some years now the red phone box on Main Road has been home to the village defibrillator. It is also our village "book-swap", where people can donate and take books to read, free of charge. It is always well stocked with a wide selection of books, and appears to be well used. It does from time to time get very full, and at that point I sort it out and give the older/damp books to a local charity shop where they can be recycled and the charity is able to benefit.

Christmas is around the corner and I will add some festive cheer to the phone box again! If anyone has any decorations that could be used in the phone box please let me know.

Also if you have any other ideas as to how the phone box could be used and be of benefit to the village, please pass on your ideas via the Parish Clerk.

Sandra Yates



Keep Safe Doggrel

Christmas time is nearly here, With all its festive seasonal cheer, As Father Christmas brings the toys For big (and little) girls and boys.

But folks, BEWARE of the nasty boy With devious ways, who will employ His wits to snatch each lovely gift, And leave you feeling quite bereft.

When out Christmas shopping, secure your purse, Keep an eye on the kids as the crowds you traverse, Set a meeting spot in case they get lost And make sure they know who they can (and can't) trust.

This Christmas I implore you all To take care of your festive haul, Keep doors & windows locked up tight, Make sure your gifts are out of sight.

Mark all valuables, or record them online www.imobilise.com is a site that's fine, Don't leave packaging where crooks can see What lovely new gifts they could steal on their spree.

Going away? Put lights & TV on a timer (A word quite sure to perplex a rhymer) Leave curtains open during the day, Garden ladders & tools all stowed away.

If you have an alarm, make sure it is set And CCTV can be even better yet, Secure your home and secure your car, A crime-free Christmas is best by far!

Austrey Neighbourhood Watch wish you a safe and joyous Christmas.

Colin Cartwright
07974 924195
Beryl Grix 830 363



Parish Council, Government and Austrey Village Contacts

The village contact list is available on www.austrey.co.uk, **or** you can pick up a printed paper copy from the village defibrillator / phone box on Main Road, **or** view the list on the noticeboard outside Austrey Stores, **or** contact the Parish Clerk by phone or email and ask for a paper copy to be hand-delivered to you.

Parish Responsibilities

Bus shelter; bye laws; public clocks; drainage of ditches and ponds; general spending—parish councils can spend a limited amount of money on anything they deem of benefit to the community; a parish council may accept gifts; litter bin provision and support for any anti-litter campaign; planning—parish councils must be notified of and display for residents any planning applications in the area.

Job Advertisement: Lengthsman required for maintenance jobs around the village. For more details, and to apply, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Editorial Policy

The Austrey News is prepared for the Parish Council. Its aim is to keep everyone informed of anything that affects our community, or is otherwise of interest to villagers. It is produced bi-monthly and delivered to all houses within the parish, and can also be downloaded from www.austrey.co.uk.

Advertising charges per edition are:

- £5 for 4.4cm high x 6.1cm wide
- £8.50 for 8.9cm high x 6.1cm wide
- £12 for 8.9cm high x 12.2cm wide

Contact the Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk, Lynsey Treadwell, is the main contact for both the Parish Council & Austrey News. Tel: 818 558
Email: clerk@austrey.co.uk
Post: Austrey Parish Council post-box, outside Village Shop, Main Rd, Austrey

News Copy Deadlines

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