

The Austrey News

Oct—Nov 19



Austrey in 2020

With the nights starting to draw in now, we are looking forward to next summer and as a Parish Council we would like to know the appetite of everyone in the village regarding some sort of Austrey Festival next summer.

We had a very successful festival several years ago and it could have a similar theme to that. I do appreciate that it was a lot of hard work for the organisers, but I do know that it was extremely well received across the village and the wider community. What about having Open Gardens over the same weekend (green fingered villagers how do you feel about that)?

Or, if you want to run Open Gardens, would you rather it was on a different weekend?



North Warwickshire also do a 'Big Day out' https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/info/20178/big_day_out where they organise lots of events; would this be of interest to the village?



Then there's a garage sale – I know Sheepy Magna do these and they are very successful as do several other villages, would anyone be interested in that – if so, would we hold it the same day as the Austrey Festival or a different day? Then there's also Scarecrow Festivals – these are always good fun and when I drove through Sheepy a couple of weekends ago it was heaving!

Should we do an Austrey weekend – maybe the show one day; Open Gardens the next and then events in the evenings – maybe an outdoor film screening where people can bring a picnic or we can get food stalls in; a children's fancy dress party; a Casino night or even an evening hike around the local area?

These are just a few ideas I've reeled off tonight; what we want from the village please is:

Is this of interest – yes or no

What sort of events would you like to see – please do offer alternative ideas

Support! We need some volunteers to step up and offer to assist / run various activities. Without support this just can't happen.

Can you please either drop a note in the Parish Council postbox at the shop indicating your thoughts, talk to a Parish Councillor, or email clerk@austrey.co.uk

Remember – this is your village – if you would like it; let's talk about it.

Sam Goldney

'Austrey Updates' Facebook Page

Did you know that the village has a facebook page?

Austrey Updates is a page for locals old and new to share news, photos, events, gossip, memories and the like. If you're running a charity fundraiser in the village, starting a new club or society, or have simply lost your beloved pet, then why not post a message on the page? Like Austrey Updates today!



Barberama's 10th Anniversary Concert: Don't Stop Them Now!

Local barbershop chorus Barberama is marking its 10th anniversary with a celebratory concert to show how far this community choir has come in the last decade.

Begun with just a handful of local members back in 2009, it's now a 25-strong women's choir capable of tackling the highest level a cappella arrangements of contemporary and traditional numbers, and raising many thousands of pounds for good causes in the process.

Their lively and entertaining concert called 'Don't Stop Us Now!' will demonstrate the extent of their repertoire featuring a show-stopping tribute to rock legends Queen, along with a surprising mix of chart topping hits and musical classics.



extremely hard to put this concert together. The end result is a fantastic sound and a great show."

The concert will include a range of songs made famous by the greats of modern music, along with two special sets – one an impressive tribute to rock legends Queen and one that captures the fun of the 1920s.

Special guests the award-winning Amington Band will also demonstrate their very varied range, performing a great programme of music with something for everyone.

The event, which is also raising funds for Headway Tamworth, will be held on **Saturday, November 9** at Landau Forte Academy Theatre, Ashby Road, Tamworth. Tickets cost £10. **To book, visit www.tamworthartsandevents.co.uk**

For more information see www.barberama.org.uk or call **01827 830274**.

Chorus Director Lyn Kesterton said, "The choir has achieved so much and has developed its repertoire into a really eclectic mix of lively, contemporary numbers, and emotional, inspirational ballads. This has all been made possible by the commitment and enthusiasm of the choir members who have worked



Firework Safety

Despite safety warnings, bonfire parties and firework celebrations still end in painful injuries for too many people, including very young children. According to NHS statistics, NHS A&E services attended 4,436 firework injuries in 2017/18; and according to the UK Fire Service, over the past five years over 350 pre-school children, some only a year old, were treated in hospital for fireworks injuries.

Yet fireworks and bonfires can be great fun for families. Injury figures support the advice that the safest place to enjoy fireworks is at a large public display. Anyone who has been to the Austrey Bonfire Night will know what a great organised event it is!

However if you're planning on having a bonfire party at home, you can make the occasion fun and safe for everyone. Always follow the 10-step Firework Code, as well as some sparkler and bonfire safety tips, to ensure the safety of the person lighting the fireworks and those watching the display.

The Firework Code

1. Only buy fireworks from a reputable shop. They should have CE and BS 7114 written on the box to prove they conform to British Standards.
2. Plan your fireworks display. Make preparations in advance, preferably in daylight so you have a better sense of your surroundings.
3. Keep fireworks in a closed box. Take one out at a time, rather than emptying them all onto the floor and setting them up. This means risks are lower if one were to accidentally set off.
4. Read and follow the instructions carefully on each firework. Always make sure the fireworks are suitable for the area you're setting them off in.
5. Never put fireworks in your pocket. Store them in the box they came in or in a metal box with a lid.
6. Never throw fireworks (including sparklers). It is illegal to do so (you could be fined up to £5000).
7. Angle fireworks well away from spectators and buildings. This way, if they fall over or don't set off properly they won't hit anything or anyone.
8. Light the firework at arm's length. Do so with a taper, e.g. a safety gas (clicker) lighter. Warn people once fireworks have been lit.
9. Never return to a firework once it has been lit. Even if it doesn't look like it's been lit properly or it has fallen over, it could still explode. Don't risk it – you and others will be safer if you just leave it alone.
10. Stand well back from fireworks, away from the direction it's facing. Safe spectator distances are usually recommended on the fireworks.

In addition to following the firework code, you should keep in mind the following general safety tips when hosting an event:

- Children should be supervised at all times. They may not fully grasp the consequences of not following safety precautions, so they need adult guidance.
- Only one person should be in charge of setting off fireworks. That way, fewer people are put at risk.
- Do not drink alcohol if you are in charge of setting off fireworks or tending to a bonfire. Also, keep alcohol well away from fireworks and bonfires.
- Guests should always be kept at a safe distance. Adhere to the safe spectator distance guidance on the fireworks and make sure you clearly mark a line/barrier that people should not cross.
- Avoid attending fireworks/bonfire displays outdoors if you have heart problems, asthma, or bronchitis. You can still enjoy them from inside!
- Keep pets indoors. Ensure doors, windows, and curtains are closed to reduce the sounds of explosions, and have some background noise on to help distract them, e.g. the TV. Don't try to coax them out of hiding; this may frighten them more.
- Do not set off fireworks after midnight on bonfire night. It is illegal to do so. (On New Year's Eve, Diwali, and Chinese New Year, the cut off is 1am.)
- Learn how to treat minor burns, just in case. But always call for emergency services immediately if things are beyond your level of skill.



Community Timeline

Events and activities for your calendar



Sit back for a talk about Bonsai Gardening to be held at the Village Hall on 8th November at 7.30pm. £2 entry charge for non AGS members.

Many people think that it is cruel to confine trees to such tiny pots but the skill involved in training them to a beautiful shape (never mind managing to keep them alive in such conditions) is quite amazing. Bring your own bonsai tree along if you need advice or could do with some help with shaping it.

Jane Hodgkinson

It's that time of year again, fireworks are booked, bar should be flowing, children's treats ordered and catering team poised.



AUSTREY BONFIRE is on Saturday **2nd November 2019**. Tickets will be available in October from Austrey Store, The Bird in Hand and Four Shires Farm Shop. Posters will be around shortly and we hope it will be another successful event.

Residents can apply for bursaries for local projects funded by the small profits, and these have been much appreciated in the past.

We are always looking for helpers, if you want to become involved, supporting on the day or helping on the run up then please contact us.

Mick Beeson 07979 817 356
Ellen Beatty 07790 618 632

Are you interested in arts and crafts? If so then come along to the art & craft sessions we have each **Wednesday morning, 10 to 12noon**, in the Village Hall (small room). We'd love to see some new faces.

Pam Orton

Save the date! Austrey Christmas lights switch on will be on **6th December** at the bottom of St Nicholas Close.

Put it in your diary, so you don't miss this popular event!



List Your Event With Us!

Let us know about your event(s) for our December / January edition.

Parish of All Souls Event Dates

The Parish of All Souls will be holding its annual Harvest Supper on **Saturday 5 October at 7.30 pm** in **Shuttington & Alvecote Village Hall**. All are welcome to join us for an evening of food and fellowship. Tickets (£8 adults, £5 under 16s) are available from the churchwarden **Heather Cooke** on **01827 830548**

The annual Bereavement Service, which those who have recently lost loved ones are invited to attend, is being held in St Nicholas Church, Austrey on **Sunday 17 November at 4.00 pm** and will be conducted by Fr Philip Wells of Polesworth. If you would like to have a family member remembered by name at the service, please contact the churchwarden **Heather Cooke** or the PCC Secretary **Alison Meredith** on **01827 892796**.

Book the date! Our ever popular **Holly Berry Eve** is scheduled for **Friday 6th December** in **Newton Regis Village Hall**. Watch out for details.

Information about services is available via the church noticeboard or our website www.allsoulsnorthwarwickshire.co.uk



News from the Village Hall

Why oh why do we always time our events to occur immediately before the Newsletter is published? It makes the task of drafting this article in early September so difficult!

Well we cast the dice and took a big gamble on booking a group of performers with a national level price tag in the hope it would bring a new audience to the Hall and thus up our profile. The event has happened; you did / did not turn out, and I either have the status of 'Cool Dude' or 'Sad Chancer'. Either way, I hope those of you who came to see Men In General on 5th October had a good night and that all of the paperwork that Live and Local insist on has been worthwhile.

In July the roof leaked and the ceiling collapsed (well a bit of it did!) we 'got a man in' cus it was a very high bit of ceiling and we sensibly chickened out.

We were, however, braver in August and, donning overalls, erecting platforms and bracing our geriatric bones for the inevitable spills, we decorated the main hall in a fetching shade of magnolia. I would at this point like to thank Laura and son who responded to our plea for assistance and who both made a great job of slapping on the distemper.

Looking ahead we anticipate retaining the hot drinks concession at the Village Bonfire. So, if you want hot chocolate at a less than eye watering price come inside the pavilion for a trip to the loo and pocket-friendly prices.

On 22nd November we have a choral treat for you, a repeat of last year's very successful event. The Mercian Singers will perform in the Hall with percussive accompaniment from Stan and I from behind the Bar. So, if you missed Men In General, don't wallow in a mire of civic guilt, spring up refreshed! Grab your purse or wallet and bring it along to the Hall for an inspiring evening of civic spending with a bit of music thrown in on the side!

Chris Wynne



Austrey Gardening Society to Disband ?

As editor of the Austrey News, I was sad to receive the latest news update from the AGS. After many, many years of running a successful and very popular society, the AGS may disband in January 2020. This is not because it is lacking in members, or has become insolvent, but because unfortunately there are insufficient committee members to organise and run the society.

I have many happy memories of this active, friendly and welcoming society, from over two decades. Members have enjoyed a wide range of trips and fantastic speakers on all sorts of subjects; not only gardening but also cookery, winemaking, wildlife and history. The AGS has also been responsible for organising the Village Open Show (of vegetables, flowers, home cooking and crafts; enjoyed by adults and children alike) and, in recent years, Open Gardens (which traditionally has been run support of the Village Hall, St Nicholas Church and the Baptist Church; raising £2,000 of funds in 2017).

If you think you can help to save the society by becoming a committee member, please contact Jane Hodgkinson at austreygardeningociety@gmail.com or phone **830164**.

Emma Fish



Newton Regis Tennis Club

I can't believe we are now in Autumn! It just seems 5 minutes since we were covering ourselves in Factor 50 sunscreen at **6pm on a Tuesday evening** for **Cardio Tennis**.

Cardio Tennis is great fun, and members (£5) and non members (£6) are all welcome to just turn up at the tennis courts. There is no age limit, at the last session we had an age range of 15 to over 60 years! This session will continue running throughout the autumn and winter and if you have the energy you can carry on through at **7pm** for the **adult tennis lesson**.

For all other lessons contact **Josh** on **07791 239029**.

Make a racquet!

Newton Regis



Angela Turner

The club's annual meeting reported a steady growth in membership – a sign that archery is becoming an increasingly popular sport for people of all ages and levels of fitness.



However, we do more than just shoot as we are a sociable group and hold quite a few formal and informal social events during the year, a popular one being lunch at a nearby café after our Saturday morning shoots.

We meet on Saturdays from 10.00am to noon, and on Wednesdays from 6.00pm until dark at Shuttington and Alvecote Village Hall, and are always pleased to meet people who just want to pop in and see what we do.

So many people have a taster of shooting but then are hooked. However, if you wish to take up archery as a sport and join a club, you must take a course of training. We run courses in March and October each year, and our next one will take place on the four Saturdays in October. This, we promise, will give you a lifetime of enjoyment!

If you would like to book a place, either drop into one of our sessions or contact us at austreyarcherygroup@hotmail.co.uk. We will be delighted to see you.

Bob Patchett

Lengthsman needed!

So what is a lengthsman?

You may have seen us advertising over the last few issues of this newsletter for a lengthsman but we have never really explained what this role entails.

We are looking for a physically fit person (male or female) who can assist with general maintenance duties around the village. As a Parish Council we all work and whilst you will have seen us out and about in the community doing gardening, painting etc we do struggle for time to keep on top of the many tasks which keep our lovely village looking its best.

So if you have a few hours a month spare to assist with these sort of duties and would like some additional cash can you please email clerk@austrey.co.uk and the lovely Lynsey will be in touch with quicker than you can say 'strim the footpaths'. We hope to hear from you soon!



Parish Council, Government and Austrey Village Contacts

Details of village groups and societies can be found on www.austrey.co.uk. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details if you can't access the internet.

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

December edition—by November 7th
February edition—by January 7th
April edition—by March 7th