

The Austrey News

Feb—Mar 20



New Decade. New Government, New Houses, New People: but Whither the Village Hall?



Austrey: new decade. I usually write this article having taken a large dollop of whimsy and with my tongue firmly in my cheek. However, on a sodden December afternoon with a chance of further biblical floods and the imminent launch of the Warton Lane Lifeboat it's difficult to maintain that view.

I'll start by hoping that those of you who came to our dazzling and sun soaked Mexican Fiesta had a cracking time and that the always excellent food was to your taste. We aimed for authenticity whilst remaining just the right side of volcanic, no cases of the dreaded Pancho Villa's Revenge I hope! So, that's whimsy done to work:

- How many of you have ever been to the Village Hall?
- How many give a Flying Fig if it makes it through to the end of the New Decade?

On current showing, the answer seems to be ... not too many!

Let's be honest, the Village Hall is an elderly edifice showing her age and in need of some fairly intense social care. She is currently getting that from a very small group of mature individuals (average age 70+), who have devoted rather too many years to her care. In short, we, and she, need a transfusion of new blood in order to survive the decade and provide your home village with the facility you deserve.

On Thursday 20 February at 7:30pm we are holding our AGM. It's an opportunity for you to step-up and become a part of that team. You can be confident that you will be welcomed with open arms; your contribution to village life and your ideas will be valued. We need each and every one of you! So, don't be bashful.

It pains me to point this out, if you don't step forward actuarial certainties mean that well before the end of the new decade there will be no management committee. If there is no committee the Charter, and the 1946 Education Act, specify that the Hall (an ex Church School) must be returned to the Diocese of Birmingham and sold for building land. The proceeds will not pass to the Parish of Austrey, nor will Austrey School benefit.

Instead the funds raised from the hall's sale (and demolition) will pass to the Treasury and this village will have lost a valuable asset. An asset that, with careful management, will benefit you and your children for decades to come. Once lost it cannot be recovered: whimsy your way out of that!



Chris Wynne

Parish Council Chairman's Report: by Anthony Treadwell

Firstly, I hope everyone had a happy Christmas and I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

On December 6th, the village had another successful lights switch on. Although the weather wasn't the best, we had a good turnout with well over 100 people attending. Santa was on hand to switch the lights on and then meet the children and give each one a selection pack. The pupils from the school were on hand to raise the spirits with a good selection of Christmas Carols, beautifully sung as usual. The adults weren't left out with a plentiful supply of mulled wine and homemade pastries. We also had the use of a snow machine which went down a treat! Thanks Colin.



The left over mince pies were given as a Christmas treat to the elderly residents of Linden Lodge Nursing Home. We also were grateful to receive donations of £20 which will be put towards the street party fund.

Thanks to: Mrs Mander and Lee Kilkenny for organising the school children; Richard Mills for sorting out the electrics; Ellen Beaty for again allowing us to use her facilities; everybody who made or donated mince pies and pastries; and finally Santa for finding time to attend.

Austrey Archery Group

The Group celebrated Christmas in style with a Christmas meal at the Unicorn in Orton on the Hill, where a good time was enjoyed by all - a fitting way to end our shooting season. We are now looking forward to our annual skittles evening in January.

At the moment we are shooting indoors in Shuttington and Alvecote Village Hall, so we are not troubled by the weather, though we may go out onto the field on good weather days.

Our last training course was well attended and produced a clutch of new members who have been welcomed into the membership of the club. Our next course will run in March and is already fully booked.

However, if you are interested in taking up the sport, please contact us at austreyarcherygroup@hotmail.co.uk and we will let you know when our next course will be running. Archery is a fascinating sport, suitable for everyone regardless of level of fitness. And as the photograph shows, our club attracts people of all ages.

Bob Patchett



Newton Regis Tennis Club

Newton Regis



Wishing all members and non-members a very happy and healthy New Year.

A reminder to all that membership will be due on 29 February. (Leap year this year; don't forget to propose ladies!) For the first time we will be offering membership payment by standing order if requested, as every little helps; I'm sure I've heard that phrase before somewhere.

A date for the diary. On March 29th from 2 - 4 pm we shall be holding our spring open day. Everyone is welcome. We'll have lots of fun and games together with free refreshments. Last year we had a very good turnout and attracted new members, who I hope have enjoyed their year with us.

For lessons (group or private) contact Josh Hull-Witten on 07791 239029.

For more information please contact Angela, Membership Secretary, on 07552 785 477.

Austrey and Warton Scout Group

Austrey and Warton Scouts rounded off the Autumn term with an amazing trip to hear the West Midlands Fire Service band in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall which was apparently 'super cool' and a great time was had by all. The last week of term, they had an all sections trip to the inflatables at Rebound in Ashby where the only thing broken was the Scout Leader's dignity and the street credibility of some of the Young Leaders.

The Beavers had an 'awesome' end of term party where they made chocolate wreaths and snowman ornaments and only got slightly messy. They've also enjoyed making biscuits over the term as well as dressing the Young Leaders up as zombies for Halloween and apple bobbing. They had terrific fun learning some skills for life when first aid was covered with them and they learnt about CPR, how to use bandages correctly and how to treat a graze.

Cubs also covered a wide curriculum; they started work on their science badges and as part of this that got to understand the organs of the body and how they work. They then moved on to the local knowledge badge where they interviewed some locals have lived in the area for a long time to learn about the villages that they live in. They made apple crumbles (which were delicious!) another week as well as celebrating National Dessert day making and tasting various simple desserts.

They then had a mini bonfire party with sparklers and games which fortunately the weather stayed bright for, and then went on to participate in the Act of Remembrance at Warton where they were a credit to the group.

As you can see, we run a wide programme of activities for our young people between the ages of 5½ to 14.

If you would like your child to join any of our sections (Beavers, Cubs or Scouts), please contact Fiona on 07939 1143060.

Sam Goldney



Community Timeline

Events and activities for your calendar



St Nicholas Church Sunday Services

2 Feb 6.00 pm
Taizé Service of Evening Prayer
9 Feb 10.30 am, Family Worship
16 Feb 8.30 am, Holy Communion
23 Feb 10.30 am, Family Worship
1 March 6.00 pm, Holy Communion
8 March 10.30 am, Family Worship
15 March 8.30 am, Morning Worship
22 March 10.30 am
Mothering Sunday Family Service
29 March 10.30 am, Family Worship

For up-to-date information about services and other events please consult the church noticeboard or www.allsoulsnorthwarwickshire.co.uk

You can also contact the PCC Secretary of All Souls Alison Meredith on 892 796, or the Churchwarden Heather Cooke on 830 548.

Soul Café

On the first Sunday of every month during term time All Souls runs Soul Café. This is a session of informal worship with refreshments and activities for children, in the hall of one of the three schools in our parish. All are welcome to attend but especially families with young children. This term's sessions are being held in Newton Regis School, next term we will be in Austrey. Do come and find out what it's about!

Haunton Parish is offering an Alpha course starting Wednesday 4th March.

The Alpha course could change your life!

Alpha

An eleven-week series of interactive sessions introduces the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and informal chats. Alpha is for anyone who is curious to find out more about faith and a chance to ask those questions you have always wanted to ask!

Contact Father Eamonn for more information on 01283 713104, email bartonrcchurch@btinternet.com

List Your Event With Us!

Let us know about your event(s) for Our April / May edition.



Date for your diary: on Friday 8th May 2020 Austrey will be holding a Street Party to celebrate VE Day.

Main Road will be closed for the afternoon between Bishops Cleeve and Nether End. As with previous street parties everyone is to be self sufficient; just choose a spot and set up. There will be a letter drop to all homes in the village giving more details nearer the day. Look out for our on-the-day competition; perhaps the most authentic ration food!

If you have any suggestions or ideas of alternative themes please contact me: Ellen Beaty, 50 Main Road 07790 618 632

The last community coffee morning of 2019 was held on December 17th and was a Christmas buffet lunch. This was a thank you for all the support we have had from villagers during the past year. There was a game of bingo, and a raffle with some lovely prizes. All the money raised was sent to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal.

We are now back to our usual time of 10am, and meet next on Tuesday 25th February.

We would love to see more people especially those who live alone or newcomers to the village. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Pam Orton

Would you be interested in writing something for the newsletter?

We welcome letters and articles of any sort right through the alphabet from archaeology to zoology, and passing through any topic you can think of for the letters in-between!

If you would like to contribute, please contact the editor either directly at emmalafish@hotmail.co.uk or via the Parish Clerk (clerk@austrey.co.uk).

News and Advice from Measham Medical Unit

Follow these tips to keep you, your family and those around you warm and well in extremely cold weather:

- Draw your curtains at dusk and keep your doors closed to block out draughts.
- Have regular hot drinks and eat at least one hot meal a day if possible. Eating regularly helps keep energy levels up during winter.
- Wear several light layers of warm clothes (rather than one chunky layer).
- Keep as active in your home as possible.
- Wrap up warm and wear shoes with a good grip if you need to go outside on cold days.

If you have reduced mobility, are 65 or over, or have a health condition such as heart or lung disease, you should heat your home to at least 18°C. It's a good idea to keep your bedroom at this temperature all night if you can and make sure you wear enough clothes to stay warm. During the day, you may prefer your living room to be slightly warmer.

New Year, New Volunteers! Could You Help Us?

Get involved with Social Prescribing! Have you got any time to spare? We'd like to increase the number of volunteers for our Social Prescribing Groups, or why not come and take part!



PLUS: Have you a particular hobby or interest which you'd like to share with others? We'd like to start some new Social Prescribing Groups this year and with your help we can!

www.meashamdoctors.co.uk

Crocus: the Harbinger of Spring

With their cheerful purple, white, or yellow petals, the crocus is one of our earliest blooming flowers. But did you know that the crocus is not actually native to the UK? In their natural state, crocuses can be found growing wild across central and southern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and China.

Crocuses are part of the iris family, and include the saffron crocus, *crocus sativus*. Saffron has been used for centuries in cookery as well as for the treatment of over 90 illnesses, and also as a dye and perfume. It is the world's most costly spice by weight. In fact, the village of Saffron Walden near Cambridge got its name from the production of saffron from the C15th-18th.

Native or not, like many other 'imported' plants which make up the living tapestry of our countryside and gardens, the crocus now forms part of our rich gardening heritage. So we should celebrate this jewelled flower as it opens its colourful blooms and reminds us that spring is just around the corner.

Emma Fish



Fly Tipping

Did you know that you, as a householder, are responsible for where your rubbish is left? If it is fly-tipped and items are traced back to you, you could be prosecuted or issued with a fixed penalty of £200. If you pay someone to get rid of your rubbish, always check they have a Waste Carriers Licence.

Don't replace your rubbish with a fine.



Fly-tipping is a serious crime and anyone caught could get an unlimited fine and / or a prison sentence. If you see someone fly-tipping or come across waste which has been dumped try to note as many details as possible:

- type of rubbish and how much there is (don't touch it as it could be dangerous or toxic)
- location of the rubbish, including whether the dumped waste is near to any water such as a stream or river
- description of the person(s) dropping the waste: approximate height, age range and build
- description of the vehicle used or any nearby vehicles acting suspiciously: registration numbers, make, model, colour and any special markings/logos

If you see someone fly-tipping, it may be safest if you do not approach them.

Please do not disturb the site in case there is evidence within the waste which can be used to catch and prosecute those responsible.

You can report incidents of fly-tipping to NWBC by phoning 01827 715341 or online at <https://tinyurl.com/yx7hdk3h>



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.

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

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.

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

April edition—by March 7th
June edition—by May 7th
August edition—by July 7th