

The Austrey News

Dec 19—Jan 20



Sheila Broadhurst's Legacy

When Sheila died the donations collected at her funeral were passed to the Austrey Gardening Society by her family with the express wish that bulbs should be planted around the village, as Sheila had always loved to see beautiful flowers.

Thanks to an intrepid band of volunteers most of the planting has now been done, but unfortunately the weather has never been on our side. When we planted snowdrops around the village trees it snowed. When we put daffodil bulbs in the verge outside the Vicarage, opposite Sheila's house, it rained – and now we're trying to complete the final batch of bulb planting in a very wet autumn.

Thankfully crocuses have now been planted in the wide verge on Main Road and a good selection of different bulbs should flower next spring in the grassy banks at the Village Hall. However, our final task is to put the remaining bulbs in the small, somewhat neglected Community Garden next to the footpath between Orchard Close and Newborough Close. We're hoping that when the bulbs flower here it will be the start of a whole new project, encouraging other villagers to help keep this area weed free and beautiful for everyone to enjoy in the future.

Jane Hodgkinson



Christmas Light Night

Friday, 6 December 2019
from 5.45pm to 7.15pm

Austrey Parish Council would like to invite you to join us for a festive treat at the corner of St Nicholas Close and Main Road as Santa switches on the Christmas lights



There will also 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 personalised decoration. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas is a joyful time of year. A chance to see family and friends, exchange gifts and have some fun. But it can also be a challenging time of year, and can be even more difficult to cope with for those with mental health problems, the elderly, disabled, or socially isolated.

If you have a vulnerable, or elderly neighbour, why not pop in to see them, or invite them over for a cuppa? Being neighbourly is what living in a village is all about.

There are many organisations, such as Mind, the mental health charity, who offer online guidance and support (<https://tinyurl.com/sly85ov>).

In the New Year, why not make new friends, and join one of our many village clubs and societies? We have a fantastic range to get involved in!

News from the Village Hall

What's Happening in the Village Hall ? I hear you all ask (in fact, I never do but I'll tell you anyway).

Well, despite our misgivings, we discovered that we could host an eye-wateringly expensive musical event and still walk away with a few quid. We might have made more if we had been aware that one of the cast was a TV celeb (he kept that quiet). By now, we will also have hosted the Mercian Choir on 22 November and hope that our loyal fans will have made that event the success it deserves. There is a purpose to all this fund raising, we are aiming to improve disabled access by adding ramps. Our latest bid for a Council grant was knocked back but we will soldier on regardless.

But look, this is all 'so last year' we avant-garde types are already all-over the swinging twenties; we have a gourmet fiesta to plan for 2020. Those of you 'in the know' will be waiting, diary in hand, to hear about the annual Village Feast and itching to clear the decks and save the day.

Well, the day is **Saturday 1 February**, the time is **6:30pm** for a **Tequila Sunrise Reception** followed by a multi-course **Fiesta of Mexican Gastronomy**. Those of a nervous disposition (to say nothing of stomach) fear not! We will have all of the taste but a bit less of the fire, so no need to hold back.

If you have been to a feast before you will know what great value they are. For £20 you will get welcome drinks and nibbles followed by anything up to 7 delicious courses and possibly even goodnight liquors and chocs. There will be the usual bar, tombola, etc and loads of fun, a chance for those who are so minded to grow Zapata moustaches and don ponchos (men can join in too). The good thing is it's all for a good cause, and we may not publish the photos (subject to the usual brown envelope arrangements). If you are new to the village this is a fantastic chance to meet people, some of whom you may even want to meet again!

So, don't delay, ring **Chris** on **830302** or **Auntie Joan** on **830658** and claim your ticket(s). There are only 50 places and they will go quickly; you have been warned!

Chris Wynne



Austrey Community Holiday Box

Going on holiday? Get in touch with Austrey/North Neighbourhood Watch to borrow our Community Holiday Box. All we ask is that the kit is returned to us complete after your holiday so we can get it back out to another holiday goer!

The box includes: Patlock French door/patio door lock, 3 timers, security safe can, fake tv that simulates the light of a real HDTV television, 2 alarmed padlocks, shed alarm, PIR auto dialler, door handle alarm, UV permanent property marker pen, black permanent property and NHW sticker.

Email colincartwright@nwnhw.co.uk or bbgrix@btinternet.com or direct message us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NWNHW/> to book the box for your next holiday, subject to availability.



The club has now completed its autumn training course and has thereby acquired new members who may now participate in all the shoots as well as the social events we run. We are still a small club and are able to welcome new members, whether they are novices or experienced archers.



Members are now shooting indoors at Shuttington and Alvecote Village Hall. The range is quite short, but enables us to hone our shooting skills in comfortable surroundings and be ready for the longer distances when we go outside in the spring.

Our next training course for new archers will be held in March. Places are limited, so please contact us if you would like to make a reservation or learn more about the club at austreyarcherygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Austrey Joins the Eco-Schools Programme

Early in 2019, Mrs Zoey Moger, Teaching Assistant at Austrey C of E Primary School, took on running a Gardening Club after school and setting up an ECO Team. Mrs Moger is not green fingered at all so it was a case of winging it most weeks! However with a passion for kids understanding where our food comes from she achieved a few things.

The Eco-Schools programme is an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path towards improving the environment in both the school and the local community while at the same time having a life-long positive impact on the lives of young people and their families.



The ECO Team was made up of 6 children supported by Mrs Moger, and looked into ways to raise money for the ECO journey. As they needed their set up costs to be covered, Mrs Moger contacted the Parish Council to see if they could support the school with funding for a couple of projects.

Recent strong winds had unfortunately damaged the greenhouse in the school garden so a new greenhouse was purchased and installed by Mr Moger. Vegetables will be planted and sold to parents and carers, and funds from this will be put back into the project on a rolling basis. The seeds and bulbs that Mrs Moger will be using have been sourced free of charge from various initiatives available to schools to help teach the children about where our food comes from, that it doesn't just come from the shelves in Asda (other supermarkets are also available)!

The ECO Team set a goal to become a Bronze Level ECO School by July 2020. We want to reduce our carbon footprint by recycling what we practically could. This has included recycling 4 large tubs of used batteries, recycling clothing that is no longer worn, and the purchase of recycling bins. A few other ideas are in the planning stages. Mrs Moger is also trying to set up a recycling area in the school's old chicken pen.

Without the support of the Parish Council the above would not have been possible. It is a slow process but we are working hard on achieving the goals we have set.

Zoey Moger

Safer Neighbourhood Team



Safer Neighbourhoods is all about police, partners and the local community working together to improve their neighbourhood. We tackle crimes such as graffiti, anti-social behaviour and other local issues that impact upon the quality of people's lives.

Our Safer Neighbourhoods team contact is Police Community Support Officer Sarah Fretter 6262. Email: sarah.fretter@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Atherstone Office Number: 01827 719297.

Emergency: 999 Non-Emergency 101
Crimestoppers: 0800555111



Community Timeline

Events and activities for your calendar



Community coffee and chat at Austrey village hall will be having a Christmas buffet on December 17th. This will start at the later time of 12noon 'till 2pm. There will be a Christmas raffle and bingo: lots of laughter guaranteed! All welcome.

Austrey WI is holding a Christmas Workshop on Saturday 7th December, at 10am at Austrey village hall. Why not come along and try your hand at making a Christmas table decoration or door wreath? This event is open to WI members and non-members. Cost £10 inc. lunch and a glass of wine. For more info, or to book, email: lynnwynne123@btinternet.com
A new programme of activities will be available in the New Year.

Weekly services at St Michael & St James at Haunton

Every Sunday 9.00am Mass and Friday 11.00am Mass

Every Monday 10.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Divine Office

Every Wednesday 10.00am Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion

Every Friday 10.30am Rosary & Benediction for Vocation

List Your Event With Us!

Let us know about your event(s) for Our February / March edition.

Christmas Church Services

Church of England:

Come and celebrate Christmas with the **Parish of All Souls**. All are welcome to join the congregation of All Souls in celebrating Christmas 2019 at one or more of the following services:

Sunday 1st December 10.30am Soul Café in Warton C E School

Sunday 15th December 10.30am Family Nativity Service, St Nicholas, Austrey

Sunday 15th December 6.00 pm Carol Service at Holy Trinity, Warton

Sunday 22nd December 6.00 pm Carol Service at All Saints, Seckington

Tuesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00 PM Christingle Service at St Nicholas, Austrey

6.15 pm Christingle Service at St Mary's, Newton Regis

9.00 pm Christmas Communion at St Matthew's, Shuttington

Wednesday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am Family Christmas Communion at Holy Trinity, Warton

Baptist:

Austrey Baptist Church blesses you all with peace and joy this Christmas.

Do join us for our Carol Service on 8th December at 3pm led by Rev Brian White and get Christmas off to an early start with mince pies and a hot drink to follow.

Then come and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas with us at 9.30am on Christmas morning led by Debbie Chard.

All other services at 10.45am. We extend a warm welcome to all

Roman Catholic:

St Michael & St James at Haunton

Carol Service 7.30pm Friday 20th December followed by Mulled wine and Mince pies in Church Hall. All very welcome

Tuesday 24th December Carols at 7.45pm followed by Mass at 8.00pm

Tuesday 24th December, Midnight Mass at "St Frances de Sales, Wood Lane Yoxall DE13 8PH

Wednesday 25th December at 11.00am Mass at "Our Lady of Perpetual Succour", Wales Lane, Barton under Needwood, DE19 8PH

For more information call 01827 373214 or 01283 713104

Austrey Bonfire

Who needs Glastonbury when we have Austrey Bonfire?

Despite concerns about the chances of a 'go ahead' the turn out in the circumstances was excellent. Attendance was down on previous years but the atmosphere was all that could be hoped for.

Once again the bonfire team built an amazing structure that despite all the rain was set alight without incident. Jonathon's Fireworks did the village proud and compliments on the display were numerous. Some said it was better than Drayton Manor! Some local bonfires were cancelled due to the inclement weather and this bought visitors from further afield; many have said they will return next year.



The band, bar and BBQ all operated in difficult conditions, but overcame the obstacles delivering their usual high standards of entertainment and refreshment.

The event could not go ahead without the good will of those setting up and clearing up, the ticket sellers, the provision of fire extinguishers, writing of Health and Safety Policies, volunteering doctors and numerous other unseen heroes; and of course the continued support of the local community.

The highlight of the evening for me was watching the children enjoy themselves in the mud, mud glorious mud – they were children being children. Parents gave up trying to keep them clean and in a number of incidences joined in: how often does that happen? (although hopefully for our finances not next year).

We need your help in 2020: We are desperately in need of new members for the Austrey Bonfire and Fireworks team to help with taking this event to the next level. Anybody interested in joining us can contact either of the following.

Ellen Beaty 07790 618632 or Mick Beeson 07979 817356

Ellen Beaty

Tree Work Bishop's Meadow / Bishop's Cleeve

Those residents that walk into the Bishop's field from the green space at the bottom of Bishop's Cleeve will have noticed that sadly several of the trees there have lost branches and others are becoming unsafe. The North Warwickshire Tree Surgeon has had to have one removed already and there will be others being removed around the entrance into the field soon, as they are dying and are becoming brittle.

Please do be assured this is a last resort only; no-one likes to chop down trees and we are hoping to be able to replace them at some point in the future.

Sam Goldney

No Stopping the Barbershop Women!

Newton Regis-based Barberama Chorus played to a packed house at their 10th anniversary concert in Tamworth.



The concert featured a night of songs in the barbershop style and included guest appearances from the Amington Band.

The choir was delighted to help raise funds for Tamworth Headway and extends thanks to everyone who attended.

Lyn Kesterton



Editor's Note:

Ladies; if you've ever fancied having a go at singing in a choir (but were too afraid to try) why not pop along to Newton Regis Village Hall at 7.30pm on a Thursday night and come and see what Barberama get up to? You can just sit and watch at first, or 'dip your toe in the water' and have a go if you prefer.

There's no need to feel apprehensive! Our last meeting before Christmas takes place on 5th December, or you can drop in from 9th January 2020.

We're a friendly and welcoming bunch, and before you know it you'll be drawn into the fantastic pastime of singing in four-part harmony! You'll get as much help and support as you need, as well as access to sheet music, lyrics, and online learning audio tracks (brilliant for those, like me, who can't read music). Whatever your vocal range, why not give it a whirl? You won't regret it.

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

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