

## News from the Village Hall

### — What have we been up to?

As I'm not sure if this Newsletter will be published and delivered in time, I'm not going to publicise the fantastic Comedy Show on 02 December or the Orgasmic Christmas Fayre on 09 December, but just in case you do get this in time, please contact any member of the Village Hall Committee for further details of these forthcoming events'.

Instead, I'm going to give you a warning!

Get your tickets now for the single biggest event of 2024.... A Moulin Rouge themed dinner on Saturday 27 January!

"Will there be dancing girls" you ask yourself?... Well, if you have been to one of these productions before you will know the answer! You'll also know that there is going to be an evening of top class gastronomic action!

"Can I join in" you ask?... Well, all I can say is that dress style is optional (As the resident dogsbody, I will no doubt be sporting a stripy tee-shirt and black beret) but you can wear anything from black tie to string vest!

Watch Facebook or any nearby telegraph pole for details of how to book, but on a serious note, these evenings are always over-subscribed, so do **please book early**.

Looking back over the past few months we've carried on with our programme of improvements and have upgraded the kitchen area to provide more usable storage and workspace for events such as the Lunch Club.

We also introduced a new event this year, the Community Showcase. This free to enter event's aim was to show just how many interesting and useful groups are available, for everyone, in our village and give everyone the opportunity to network, build new links and make new friends.

And finally...don't forget that the Hall is there for the whole community its yours to use and yours to enjoy, so if you need an entertainment space give us a call and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

You can contact us and see news of upcoming events from our Facebook page: [@Austreyvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/Austreyvillagehall)

Or by email: [christopherwynne@btinternet.com](mailto:christopherwynne@btinternet.com)

Chris Wynne Austrey Village Hall

## Neighbourhood Plan (NDP)

### Review update

We have a sub committee that meets monthly (do please email [ndp@austrey.co.uk](mailto:ndp@austrey.co.uk) if would like to join us) and we are reviewing our NDP which was formally adopted in June 2017. The original plan is still a legal document and has protected our village from some of the significant developments that neighbouring villages have undergone/are undergoing in recent years, but as all of the development that was identified has now been built, it has been challenged by developers in recent planning applications, so it was agreed to review it to give it more strength and relevance when reviewing it against new planning applications.

A Housing Needs survey was conducted across the village late in 2021 and from this we established that the only sort of building that was required, was for starter homes and for bungalows. North Warwickshire states in regards to Austrey in its own local plan

*'Development within development boundaries will be supported in principle. Development directly adjacent to settlement boundaries may also be acceptable. All development will be considered on its merits; having regard to other policies in this plan and will cater for windfall housing developments usually on sites of no more than 10 units at any one time depending on viability, services and infrastructure deliverability.'*

Which means that there is no requirement for a 'call for sites' which is where we go out to local landowners to see if they have land that could potentially be used for housing.

A questionnaire has been completed by residents and from this various local green spaces have been identified. These have been assessed against the NDP criteria and we have also done the same with views of the village that we would seek to protect, i.e. views from the Bishops Field towards the church and reverse.

Our next job is to work through all of the amends in our new Draft Plan and we hope to send it out to village consultation next year. If you want to learn more about the meetings either email [ndp@austrey.co.uk](mailto:ndp@austrey.co.uk), visit the village website at [www.austrey.co.uk](http://www.austrey.co.uk) or pop a note in the letter box on the wall at the shop and a member of the committee will be in touch.

Sam Goldney Austrey Parish Council

## The Austrey News

November/ December 2023



### Welcome to Austrey

We'd like to welcome to Austrey if you've recently moved to our lovely village; we hope that you will be very happy here. You will find it's a thriving village with lots of activities from the Gardening Society to the WI via the Youth Club. There's all sorts of activities happening at the Village Hall which is run by a friendly group of volunteers and it hosts Coffee Mornings, Lunch Clubs, Skittles Evenings, and a whole host of other events.

We'd like to thank all of our residents who make up our busy village; for the support that they give to the various organisations and businesses and for the community spirit that they contribute to; we truly have a village to be proud of.

For more information, please visit the website [www.austrey.co.uk](http://www.austrey.co.uk); follow Austrey Updates on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/AustreyUpdates> or if you would like us to keep you informed by other means, please pop a note in the Parish Council letterbox on the wall outside the shop with your name and phone number and we'll get in touch with you.

If you'd like to speak with a Parish Councillor, please contact us via [clerk@austrey.co.uk](mailto:clerk@austrey.co.uk), pop a note in the letter box, send a message to Austrey Updates or give us a ring / drop us a text - we're a friendly bunch and are here to serve the interests of the village. We love to hear your ideas as well as your concerns, if you're vulnerable or need support we're absolutely here to help so please do get in touch.

### Chairman's Report

2023 has been a much better year for the village and villagers. Council elections came and went in May and I'm glad to announce that 3 new councillors have made us up to a full council. The new members, Richard Nield, Neil Hayward and Terry Webb have slotted in well and their profiles will appear on the Austrey website as soon as it is updated.

The council sub committee is working hard on our Neighbourhood Plan to try and control what happens in the village particularly where planning is concerned.

The annual bonfire went well despite the inclement weather, and again massive thanks must go to Ellen, Tris, Heather and their merry band of helpers.

Coffee mornings and the Luncheon Club are back in full swing but it would be nice to see more villagers attend the coffee mornings. It's an ideal place to socialise and the cakes are delicious! We are in full swing organising our Xmas Lights switch on and this year we are hoping to welcome members of Amington Band, so we that can all join in a rendition of our favourite Christmas carols.

**Hope to see you then.**

## From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,  
Christmas is what I want to write about; new starts and New Year resolutions! I want to think about lights and carol services, Christingles and Christmas dinners. And then I switch on the news and I become all too aware of the pain in individual's lives and devastation in the world around us. With conflict rising between Israel and Palestine, war, with Russia, continuing in Ukraine and then there are natural disasters, and earthquakes which seem to be much more frequent than ever. And, that's not to mention leaky church roofs, collapsing walls and the cost of living and poverty closer to home.

I am reminded more than ever this year of a season that we often miss, or race straight past - Advent. A time often associated with preparation for Christmas, marked with chocolate advent calendars, or maybe gin or beer, you name it and there is an advent calendar for it. In the church calendar Advent is not just as a time when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, but when we intentionally focus on preparing for Jesus' return; return to a world just as broken now as it was 2000 plus years ago. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light remind us that Jesus comes as light of the world, to a world that is in need of light. Advent is a time when we pray 'Come, Lord Jesus Come', come into our darkness.

It's become tradition that the Parish of All Souls hold its Christingle services on Christmas eve, making the shift from Advent to Christmas and celebrating Jesus the light of the world, who was, as is and is to come. Maybe to truly appreciate all that is good about Christmas we need to recognise and linger (but not stay) in the darkness too, so that we may pray 'come, Lord Jesus' and truly appreciate all the goodness that Christmas brings.

There are lots of opportunities to join us through Advent and Christmas, with the Christmas fair, carols and services, please do join us.

Details of all our services can be found on the notice boards, on the website and in the Parish Christmas Card which, has been designed by one of our local children.

Have a Blessed Advent, Christmas and New Year.

### Rev. Joanne Dyer

Rector of All Souls  
New Vicarage, Main Rd, Austrey, CV9 3EB  
075969 33488  
[rector\\_all\\_souls@btinternet.com](mailto:rector_all_souls@btinternet.com)

Follow us on Facebook @allsoulsnorthwarwickshire  
Website <https://www.allsoulsnorthwarwickshire.co.uk/>

## Cuppas, cake & companionship at Community Coffee and Chat



We all have seen the advert beginning with "I can't believe its....." Or people saying "I can't believe it's nearly Christmas!"

Well, we can't believe it's been 8 years since Coffee and Chat started. Just imagine all the yummy homemade cakes baked and eaten. All the cups of tea and coffee drank!

Most importantly all the wonderful chatter and community friendship, that is the heart of why our small group of volunteers turn up each month, cakes made and ready for our guests. I am so very proud of every one of them.

Coffee & Chat is held on the **last Tuesday of every month at Austrey village hall from 10am till 12 midday.**

Everyone is welcome young or older, from Austrey and surrounding villages

Future dates: **November 28th**

**December 19th 12 till 2pm** Please note

change of date and time, as this will be a Christmas buffet there will be a raffle all proceeds to Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

**January 30th & February 27th** both 10 till 12

A warm friendly welcome awaits you.



Chris Minett on behalf of Community Coffee and Chat

## Austrey Belles Club

Austrey Belles Club (A.B.C.) was formed in April 2022 as a non sectarian, non political, group for ladies of all ages. Our aim is to bring together a social, friendly club open to all, with minimum rules.

You don't need to cook! You don't need to do crafts! and you certainly don't need to be a Campanologist???

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Austrey Village Hall.

We enjoy very good speakers, as varied as "Knickers & Nighties" and "The History of Drayton Manor" Theatre outings, Themed Meals ( Octoberfest) ( War Time Afternoon Tea) and socialising with a cup of tea.

If you would like to learn more about our group, contact either - Lynn Wynne on 01827 830716 or Chris Moss on 10827 830302 we would love

to meet you.

Chris Moss Treasurer



## Austrey Lunch Club



We have been running the lunch club for year now. Catering for 40 guests each month.

All food is freshly cooked by a team of dedicated and may I add extremely good cooks!

We offer a 2 course meal, plus tea or coffee, for £5 per person.

We can cater for special diets, with prior notice, and there is always a vegetarian option on the menu. Booking is essential and transport can be arranged on request.

The Lunch Club is the second Thursday of each month. Open to Austrey and surrounding North Warwickshire villages of Newton Regis Warton etc.

Future dates for lunch club: December 14th, January 11th February 8th. Held at Austrey Village Hall doors open 12.30pm Lunch Served from 1pm till 2pm.

To book your place, please contact Christine Minett on **07985261855**

**We look forward to seeing you there !**

## Christmas Lights Night

On Friday 2nd December, Austrey Parish Council will be hosting Austrey's annual Christmas Lights Night event on the corner of St. Nicholas Close & Main Road.

Come and join us from 5.30pm as children from Austrey C of E Primary School lead the crowd in singing Christmas carols around the tree.



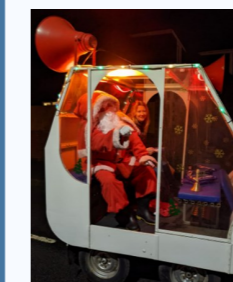
Atherstone Sleigh Group will be escorting a very special visitor to Austrey, and once the carols conclude he will be switching on the Christmas lights.

Children are invited to meet Father Christmas on his sleigh, and children on his 'good' list may receive a small treat!

But it's not just for the children! Ellen Beaty, our chief Elf, will be serving mulled wine & mince pies to keep you warm and to add good cheer.

This is a free event. No tickets are required, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Many of our residents say that it's the start of Christmas for them and it's a really special village event which will end at 7pm.



**\*Please note that Main Road will be closed from Bishops Cleeve to the Crossroads from 5.15 - 7.15pm Buses will be diverted\***

Read us on line @ [www.austrey.co.uk](http://www.austrey.co.uk)



## Austrey Christmas Fayre

Its that time of the year again Christmas is coming to the village hall! Its time to enjoy the goodies on show from hand-made studio pottery to yummy cakes, pamper treats and unique hand made gifts, decorations, jewellery and toys! Father Christmas and his elf will be waiting to meet all the boys and girls and for just a pound, per child, you can tell him all your Christmas wishes, get a photo and even post your Christmas letters. The good boys and girls will get a little gift to help them last until Christmas day! Refreshments will be available with mulled wine or hot chocolate to warm you up!  
Event entry £1 Saturday December 9th 2-5pm



## Hazel Meadow Allotments

Another productive year, we so enjoy producing our own food, the satisfaction of being involved from start to finish and then the enjoyment of delicious and healthy food.

There is a lovely atmosphere with everyone helping each other when necessary and always someone whose advice to ask. All the allotments are managed differently dependant on personal preference.

If you are interested in an allotment, want to be added to the waiting list or want to know more about us contact Ellen on 07790618632



## Austrey Bonfire and Fireworks

A massive 944 people actually attended the Annual Bonfire on a VERY wet November evening, a community event not specifically profit making but if money is made it's fed back into the community via bursaries.

Those attending made us feel proud to be part of such a game community who supported the village through 'well' and highwater...., the band set up, then set down for obvious health and safety reasons, they provided recorded music and we thank them and will be seeing them next year. Jonathon's Fireworks struggled (successfully) to keep their explosives dry but did start 4 minutes early as either water levels rose or the fireworks were sinking in the mud.



We work as a team divided appropriately, bonfire building, site clearance, fireworks, bar, food, gate, marketing, kiddies corner, Facebook co-ordinator etc. This year we had a number of excellent new team members supporting the old hands, we are always searching for more, those with any skills or none are welcome.



Everyone pulled together setting up and dismantling the event in extremely difficult circumstances, but the camaraderie and fun are bonding.

For those of you abroad or not around for the event - it rained and rained, then rained some more - Please support the event next year.

For more information contact Ellen 0779618632 or Tris



[www.toplineph.co.uk](http://www.toplineph.co.uk) Email: [info@toplineph.co.uk](mailto:info@toplineph.co.uk)  
Call, WhatsApp, Text : 07858116 507. ♦01827 830 560

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No job too small.

## Austrey Lunch Club

*Is back !!*

Starting on 14th September  
1230-2pm

2 Course Lunch Inc tea & coffee

£5 per person,  
Everybody welcome !

Austrey Village Hall, Main Road

Transport available by prior arrangement

Booking essential - contact : Chris Minett 07985261855

## Austrey Baptist Church would like to bless you all with Peace & Joy this Christmas

Do come and join us for our Carol Service on 10 th December at 10.45am to be led by Pam Deacon mince pies and a hot drink to follow Services held every Sunday at 10.45am you will always be made very welcome

Nigel North is holding a glory meeting on 25 th November from 3pm - 5pm



Read us on line at [www.austrey.co.uk](http://www.austrey.co.uk)

## Austrey Village Website

Our village societies' contact details are very out of date and we would appreciate up to date contact details of every group, society, business, place of worship etc., so that no-one misses any enquiry. Also needed is someone from that group to be responsible for passing on information—a change of contact, or an event— and for reports with photographs of anything you do, to the Parish Council so that the site can be updated.

With all the changes going on in the village, there are certain to be prospective new members who will feel dejected if the contact is so out of date so no-one responds.

Can you please send contact details to [clerk@austrey.co.uk](mailto:clerk@austrey.co.uk) or put a note in the Parish Council letterbox on the wall of the village shop.



**Follow The Star**  
Join the Song

**THE PARISH OF ALL SOULS, NORTH WARWICKSHIRE**

**SATURDAY DEC 2 CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
@ NEWTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL 10 TIL 12

**SUNDAY DEC 3 8.30AM AUSTREY, HOLY COMMUNION**

**SUNDAY DEC 10 6.00PM SECKINGTON, CAROL SERVICE**

**SATURDAY DEC 16 2 TIL 4 'CAROLS AROUND THE VILLAGES'**

**SUNDAY DEC 17 10.30AM AUSTREY, FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE**  
6.00PM NEWTON REGIS, CAROL SERVICE

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5.00 PM WARTON, CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**6.15 PM NEWTON REGIS, CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**9.00 PM SHUTTINGTON, READINGS, CAROLS & CANDLES**

**11.30 PM AUSTREY, MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9.00 AM SECKINGTON, CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**

**10.30 AM WARTON, CHRISTMAS FAMILY COMMUNION**

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

## Austrey Gardening Club

Austrey Gardening Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in Austrey Village Hall. We have a varied programme of speakers, practical activities and visits to gardens both locally and further afield.

In 2023 our main visit was to RHS Wisley in Surrey, we have also visited gardens in Seckington, Thorpe Constantine, Earls Shilton and Melbourne in Derbyshire. We have enjoyed varied talks on composting, showing vegetables and an entertaining talk on vintage tools.

Practically we have held a potato competition to grow the most weight in potatoes in a tub, had a seed sowing session and learnt how to take softwood cuttings.

So whether you are a keen gardener, a novice or just have an interest in hearing about and visiting gardens please do come along and join us for an evening to see if you like it.

Further details can be obtained from the secretary, Denise Karet, on 07776477556 or by email at [austreygardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:austreygardeningclub@gmail.com).



**Are you creative?**  
**AUSTREY ARTS AND CRAFT GROUP**  
**Meeting every Wednesday from 10am til 12 noon**  
at Austrey Village Hall  
we welcome artists, makers, knitters, crochet  
lovers and crafters of all kinds  
beginners or experienced all are welcome!  
Dont be shy, pop in and say hello!

## Local Contact List

Parish Council Contact	Phone Number	Email address
Tony Treadwell (Chair)	07854 357768	<a href="mailto:tony@austrey.co.uk">tony@austrey.co.uk</a>
Tristan Fraser (Vice-chair)	07974 176096	<a href="mailto:tristan@austrey.co.uk">tristan@austrey.co.uk</a>
Sam Goldney	07976 606745	<a href="mailto:sam@austrey.co.uk">sam@austrey.co.uk</a>
Neil Hayward	07789 320003	<a href="mailto:nhayward@austrey.co.uk">nhayward@austrey.co.uk</a>
Terry Webb	07789021984	<a href="mailto:twebb@austrey.co.uk">twebb@austrey.co.uk</a>
Heather Swan	07966 277154	<a href="mailto:heatherswan@austrey.co.uk">heatherswan@austrey.co.uk</a>

To email all councillors, please use [parishcouncil@austrey.co.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@austrey.co.uk) or to email the clerk please use [parishclerk@austrey.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@austrey.co.uk)  
There is also a Parish Council post-box mounted outside the village shop.  
Our website can be found at: [www.austreyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.austreyparishcouncil.co.uk)



Welcome to Youth 139, a youth club for young people aged 10 to 15 years old living within Austrey, Newton Regis, Seckington, Shuttington, Alvecote, and Warton.

Youth 139 has been in operation for a little over a year and its name came from Psalm 139:14 "I praise you because you are fearfully and wonderfully made." It is this message that we - the volunteers - believe in and what we encourage and promote with every young person who comes through our doors.

Youth 139 is free, thanks to the support of The Parish of All Souls, North Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Council. We meet every Thursday (term-time only) 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. at Austrey Primary School, CV9 3EQ. The club is led by Michelle Withey and a team of volunteers who have been appropriately checked through the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) and have met the safeguarding criteria required by the Birmingham Diocese.

There are lots of exciting things to do at Youth 139: laser tag, football, dancing, tennis, badminton, hockey, baking, dodgeball, art and crafts, sewing, darts, foosball, pool and treasure hunting. We also have a quiet chill-out corner for young people to relax. We've had guest speakers talking to our young people about First Aid and, the Fire and Rescue Service visited to talk about possible career opportunities. In the summer, we had our first 'Hashing' event and BBQ at the vicarage hosted by Reverend Joanne Dyer.

We've got more in store next year, focussing more on business and enterprise, community projects, trips out, more guest speakers and some new activities.

If your child might be interested, please do get in touch:  
[michelle.withey@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.withey@gmail.com)



## Austrey Women's Institute

We are not Jam and Jerusalem. We are a small friendly group who meet on the 2nd Thursday in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Pop in and see us you will be made very welcome.

Apart from the monthly meetings we have regular outings varying from watching the lambing, enjoying breakfasts at various locations, Serious Science Lectures, Treasure Hunts, not just staying in the Village but joining the Polesworth Group and County for their many activities - when we want to.

Most of us aren't very 'crafty' but you should see our collection of pumpkins.

WI are Keep Britain Tidy, WI are campaigners for prostate screening, WI are fighting against Domestic Violence and WI are promoting the education and well-being of women and their families.

Don't let stereotypes fool you.

Notice of our next meetings are on the village notice board.

For more information contact **Ellen on 07790618632**

## Last few Austrey Vintage View Greetings Cards

There are still a few sets of lovely greetings cards showing historic pictures of Austrey village long ago. The cards are £7 for a set of 5 and are available from The Bird in Hand. All profits are donated to Austrey Village Hall.

Don't miss out on these special memories of the Austrey of yesterday.

