

# The Austrey News

## December 2017



### Austrey Village Hall Desperately Struggling for Funds

Village Hall in crisis! Okay so things aren't quite that bad but now I've got your attention, perhaps I can 'tell it like it is'. The Village Hall is 167 years old and starting to show its age. The Committee recently spent the August Bank Holiday weekend redecorating the lobby to create a more welcoming ambience but we are aware that both the heating and the roof will need attention in the near future.

**To fund the renovation, we need to raise a substantial amount of money over the next year.**

Our usual method of doing so is to hold regular events and entertainment but, sadly, these have limited fund raising potential - particularly if we don't have a capacity audience. The conflicting pressures of rising overheads versus the understandable pressure to keep ticket prices at a level that is 'affordable for all' means that we only achieve a reasonable profit margin at sell-out events. In short, we need your support to preserve this valuable village asset either as regular audience members or as Committee volunteers.

We are exploring other funding sources but in the meantime we continue to offer a busy programme of events. In 2017 the Russian Night and Skittles Evening were both highly successful early-year events and the Open Gardens

gave us a much needed mid-year boost. Hopefully, the Choir event on 25 November 2017 will be equally profitable. The village hall also remains available for personal hire and commercial activity. If you have a forthcoming party or business event please think local and consider the Village Hall as a possible venue, you may be surprised by what we can provide.

Forthcoming events in 2018 include A Dickensian Feast in late January. Those of you who have attended earlier 'feasts' will know that the amazing level of decoration and the quality of the multi-course menus make these events incredible value for money and hugely enjoyable. So, don't delay ring **Joan (830 658)** or **Chris (830 302)** to reserve your place.



The Christmas tree has been ordered, and your Parish Council is planning a festive treat for you!

On Friday 1st December from 5.30pm we will be holding our Christmas get-together. We have applied to have St Nicholas Close closed for about an hour to ensure everyone's safety.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies for the older attendees. Then, at 6pm, Santa has spared some time from his busy schedule to come and switch on the Austrey Christmas lights and to meet the children (and grown-ups too!) We also hope that the children from the school will sing some carols for us.

Everyone from the village is cordially invited to come along and spread some Christmas cheer to start off the season of goodwill—so see you there!



### Chairman's Report, by Tony Treadwell

We are pleased to announce that Mick Beeson has joined the Parish Council, so we now have 4 councillors. Mick has lived in the village since 1994 with his wife Jill, son Marcus and two daughters Natasha and Alouise. He has worked for some very large multi-national companies in senior sales and marketing positions for over 25 years, mainly operating within the automotive sector, and now runs his own successful automotive components and research company.

It is a difficult period for the village. The Parish Council is fighting to stop the application for Gypsy caravans on land south of Flavel Farm bungalow. I must thank all those who have helped us, delivering leaflets around not only Austrey but also the surrounding villages. We have over 1,000 signatures on our declaration to oppose this application and hope that the weight it carries will go in our favour. In respect of other planning matters, the closure of Newton Lane has come to an end. We will now work to try and get the part of Newton Lane, where it joins No Man's Heath lane, restored to a reasonable condition.

Finally whilst the Austrey Playing Field is a public facility, certain areas of it are leased out. We would therefore respectfully ask that if any event is taking place (for example a football match or forest school) that everyone is respectful of our tenants and does not disrupt their activities.

### Coffee and Chat

The coffee and chat morning is growing in popularity. Unless otherwise advertised, it's run by the WI, on the last Tuesday of each month, from 10 till 12 midday at the village hall.



The September coffee morning raised £50 for MacMillan. Thanks to all who donated to this.

In October we had a Halloween theme!

And we will be having a Christmas buffet on 19th December at the village hall from 12-2pm to say a big thank you to all who have supported us throughout 2017.

We look forward to seeing new and old friends at our future coffee mornings. An open and warm welcome is extended to all.

### Christmas Picture Sudoku — Get your Thinking Caps On!

Enjoy our sudoku grid with a festive twist. You complete it just the same as a regular sudoku, but each 3x3 block, column, or row, must contain 9 different festive symbols. So break out those pencil crayons and enjoy!

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### Austrey Village Bonfire 2017

What a success - we were blessed with the weather despite rain in the morning and early on Sunday for clearing up.

We had the support of so many in the village. Paul and his staff at the shop did a terrific job selling most of the tickets, along with Gareth at The Bird, Maypole Stores in Warton and 4 Shires Farm Shop in Seckington. We leaflet dropped to all surrounding villages, had catering, bar, bonfire, firework, kids corner, parking, Dr Kath and ancillary teams organising the event itself. We were supported with various practical donations including, fluorescent jackets, walkie talkies, staging, barriers, fire extinguishers and of course timber for the bonfire itself. FACES and the Village Hall Committee were fund raising and the Parish Council had a table to raise awareness of local planning issues.



Jonathon's Fireworks again put on a wonderful display praised by many. The band, Border Line, got people dancing at this successful family event

The monies raised, once a working float is taken into account, will be kept in the village so please contact either Mick Beeson or Ellen Beaty to put in a bid or give us your ideas for good causes. Previously we have helped finance the defibrillator, Memorial Clock, scouts and CCTV at the Pavilion.

Without the support of those attending we could not finance this event and thank the community for their participation. Anyone wishing to give practical help or join in please contact us.

We look forward to similar support next year – please!



Have you missed the annual WI Panto? "oh no we haven't, Oh yes we have" Well, have no fear as we will be performing for you again next year!

So here's a heads up date for your diary, "I shall say this only once"; as these events always sell out fast.

The village hall will be transformed for two nights only on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th March 2018

René Artois and his wife Edith and staff will be returning to entertain us in their usual hilarious fashion.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to join them for an evening in their Café? Enjoy food and drink, really see what Yvette and René get up to in the broom cupboard? Get close to Captain Bertorelli you beautiful ladies, or be interrogated by Herr Flick!

You will enjoy a four course meal and there will be a licenced bar. If you're very lucky Edith might even sing for you ('cheese' lumps for ears will be provided!) Fancy dress is optional, berets are a must!

Tickets will be on sale in the New Year, at the end of January. Look out for our posters at village hall and shop with more information.

We can't wait to entertain you: Helga's even dusted down her blonde wig, Herr Flick has polished his walking stick, and I daren't tell you what Lt Gruber has done to his little tank!

Au revoir—Chris Minett



# Community Timeline

## Events and activities for your calendar



Austrey WI meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Austrey Village hall from 7.30pm.

We have a varied programme of speakers and activities, guests are always welcome to join us.

Why not try our Christmas workshop on December 9th from 9.30am at the village hall; where you can have an opportunity to make a Christmas wreath or table decoration. Cost £10 for tea and coffee mid-morning and lunch. Ticket only event.

For more information please contact **Linda Knight** on **01530 270 247** or **Pat Lamb** on **01827 839 153**.

Austrey Baptist Chapel cordially invites you to come and join us for our Carol Service on 10th December at 3pm. Mince pies & a cuppa afterwards. You are also welcome on Christmas Eve at 10.45am and Christmas morning at 9.30am

All enquiries to the secretary, **Anita Allsopp**, on **830 086**.

Austrey Social Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the village hall from 10am - 12 noon.

All are welcome.

**LOCAL HISTORY CAFE**

Are you aged 50 or over and interested in heritage and history?

Local History Cafés are monthly heritage and wellbeing get togethers tackling loneliness in our community. They are places to meet and make friends over tea and cake, enjoy heritage themed presentations from fascinating speakers and take part in creative activities.

**When?** Last Tuesday of every month, 10am-12.30pm, St John Moore Foundation, Top Street, Appleby Magna DE12 7AH.

**Cost?** Only £3 per monthly session.

**How do I get there?** Make your own way, or ask us about help.

**Places must be booked.** Contact: **Becky Gravener** tel: **01530 273 629** **becky@sirjohnmoore.org.uk**

Christmas Services in The Parish of All Souls, North Warwickshire

**Carols by Candlelight**  
6.00pm Sunday December 10th St. Matthew, SHUTTINGTON  
6.00pm Sunday December 17th Holy Trinity, WARTON

**Family Nativity Service**  
10.30am Sunday December 17th St. Nicholas, AUSTREY (with puppets, craft activities for everyone, and also an opportunity for children to take part in the Nativity)

**Christmas Eve**  
5.00pm Christingle Service St. Nicholas, AUSTREY (during the service there will be a collection for the Children's Society)  
6.15pm Christingle Service St. Mary, NEWTON REGIS (during the service there will be a collection for the Children's Society)  
9.00pm Christmas Communion St. Matthew, SHUTTINGTON  
11.30pm Midnight Communion St. Nicholas, AUSTREY

**Christmas Day**  
9.00am Christmas Communion All Saints, SECKINGTON  
10.00am Family Christmas Communion Holy Trinity, WARTON

**List Your Event With Us!**

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

**Motown Movers**

**Do you love Motown music? Do you want to want to tone up for Christmas and dance away the winter blues? If so, keep reading...**

Dance every Tuesday night away to Motown classics, have some fun and get fit at the same time!

It doesn't matter if you're 16 or 70, you do not have to have prior dance experience, just come along and have some fun!

**Motown Movers is held at Austrey Village Hall from 8 until 9pm. Please contact 07979 355 405 for more details.**

**Did you know Austrey has a Pre-School?** We've been here since 2003 and although we're based on the same site as Austrey C of E Primary School, we're a separately registered local charity providing professional childcare for 2 to four year-olds during term time. If you're looking for childcare, or a way to support your village community we would love to hear from you.



**Families** We are proud that our recent OFSTED inspection in July 2017 resulted in a 'GOOD' rating. We offer flexible care arrangements Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 3.30pm and free childcare vouchers are accepted.

Our staff understand that children learn best through having fun and trying new experiences such as story telling, messy play, painting, music, singing, sand and water play, craft, IT, imaginative play, toys, games, growing flowers and vegetables, nature exploring and tasting new, healthy foods. This grows happy, secure and confident children with a positive attitude to learning.

We have a wide range of facilities and resources including a secure and recently improved outdoor play area and allotment which the children have great fun in every day. We are currently investing in new IT equipment to aid learning and understanding of technology. The children also enjoy our Christmas performance, Easter bonnet parade, Sports Day, sponsored walks, and visits to Austrey Primary School. If you are looking for quality, local childcare, book an appointment to see us in action

**Support us** As a charity we're always looking for new fund raising opportunities so that we can continue to invest in resources for the children. This could be either in the form of monetary donations, prizes, resources or time to support our fund raising events. Our children come from many local villages so your business could benefit from helping us.

**Volunteers** Our Pre-School is a run by a parent based management committee, which provides support to the Pre-School staff and helps oversee the day to day operation. The committee meets approximately twice a term and we are always looking for new members to bring different skills, knowledge or expertise to ensure a good cross section of ideas and thoughts. A significant number of existing committee members are due to leave their posts in Autumn 2018 as their children move on to start school. If we are unable to sufficiently replace this support, the future of the Pre-School becomes uncertain. You do not need to be a parent but we would arrange DBS checks for all new committee members. If you are willing to provide your time to help us on more of an ad hoc basis, we would also greatly appreciate support in the form of fund raising, gardening or general Pre-School maintenance.

**Contact us** If you would like further information about any of the above, please contact our Manager, **Penny Gifford**, on **01827 839461**. Email: **info@austreypreschool.org.uk** visit: **www.austreypreschool.org.uk**.



Austrey archers have now retired for the Winter from Austrey Playing Field and migrated indoors to Shuttington Village Hall for their shoots. Long distance shooting is out of the question, but the short indoor range gives opportunity for members to work on their technique. This is one of the great things about archery – it can be practised throughout the year, indoors and outdoors, and is not an expensive hobby.

The last course of training for the year has now ended and resulted in new members of the Group. We trust that they will have many happy and satisfying years with us.

Before you are permitted to shoot you need to attend a short course that teaches the rudiments of archery and how to carry it out safely. This will be run by nationally approved trainers. As individual tuition is given, numbers on each course are restricted so, if you would like to take up this exciting hobby, you need to book early. Further courses are being planned for 2018. To make a booking or just enquire about archery and our group, contact us on email at **austreyarcherygroup@hotmail.co.uk**. We will be delighted to hear from you.

## Tamworth Football Club Feel Right at Home in Austrey

As many of you may know, Tamworth Football Club is now using Austrey Playing Fields on a regular basis, as our Academy set up continues to grow. This season, we have teams competing week in week out in the Midland Junior Premier League at U14, U15, U16 and U18 level, with the majority of these home games taking place at the playing fields on Saturday mornings at 10.30am. Support is always welcome, and it would be great to see some local residents cheering on the boys.



**The U14 team warms up before a game**

We also occasionally use the pitches for first team training, and spent a few weekends in the village with the senior players back in July as they were preparing for a rigorous National League North season ahead. Moving forwards, we would love to get some club branding up in and around the changing room complex to give the facility a new look.

If you would like to learn more about the Academy, the club in general, or our activity within the village, please feel free to get in touch at your convenience by emailing **georgedelves@thelambs.co.uk**.



**Assistant Manager Mike Fowler delivering a half time team talk to the U15's.**

## 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. Footpaths however are the responsibility of a volunteer Mr Pete Yates who should be contacted directly in the first instance on 830 009. Mr Yates is also the snow warden.

## Editorial Policy

The Austrey News is prepared for the Parish Council; containing updates about local events, groups, charities and businesses which are of interest to villagers. Its aim is to keep everyone informed of anything that affects our community. 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:  
• £5.00 for 4.4cm high x 6.1cm wide  
• £8.75 for 8.9cm high x 6.1cm 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 postbox, outside Village Shop, Main Rd, Austrey

## News Copy Deadlines

February edition — by January 7th  
April edition — by March 7th  
June edition — by May 7th