

The Austrey News

October 2017



Austrey Village Bonfire

Put Saturday 4th November as a date to remember in your diary - **The Bonfire.**

The event is steered by Hazel Meadow Allotments, supported by the Parish Council and profits are plunged back into the community.

As usual there will be a live band, hot food, bar and hot drinks. We are trying to reintroduce the 'build a guy' competition between Austrey, Newton and Warton Primary Schools.



A still taken from panda2411's youtube video

FACES are running a tombola and we are hoping there will be other attractions apart from the magnificent bonfire and firework display.

Building the bonfire is a technical masterpiece, air has to circulate to ensure efficient ignition and of course it has to be safe. With this in mind it is not appropriate for random deposits of clean waste - that would be considered fly tipping. The Bonfire Builders will be on site between 9am and noon on Saturday 28th October if anyone from the village would like to get rid of their clean timber (ie no nails metal etc).



2016's bonfire stacked and ready to go. (photo from Austrey Bonfire facebook page).



One heck of a guy ... and Mick Beeson too. This guy was made in 2011 by Ade from Austrey. What will the Primary School children come up with? Something fantastic we're sure! (photo from Austrey Bonfire facebook page).

Your enthusiastic support means the event can continue successfully. If you would like to help in any way then please contact **Mick Beeson on 07979 817 356 or Ellen Beaty on 07790 618 632**

See you on 4th November.....

Austrey and Warton Scouts are desperately searching for a new Beaver Scout Leader. Full support and training will be given.



Beavers is the youngest section of Scouting, for children aged six to eight years. Beavers enjoy all that Scouting has to offer; being introduced to outdoor activities, having the opportunity to be creative, explore their local community and experience the excitement of a Beaver Scout Sleepover with their friends.

So please help by joining us! For more information about being a leader contact **Fiona Rouse on 07939 114 360**, she will be happy to chat with you.

Help your Neighbourhood Hedgehog

Hedgehogs were made a priority conservation species in Britain in 2007. They are in severe decline in the UK, with around a third lost since the millennium.



Baby hedgehogs are called 'hoglets' or 'urchins' and have white spines.

In rural areas, hedgehogs live along woodland edges and hedgerows in meadowland and rough pasture. They feed on a range of foods— mostly on soil invertebrates such as beetles, caterpillars, earthworms and slugs. In populated areas, they will make use of gardens and other green spaces. Hedgehogs tend to ignore arable fields, so villages and towns can act as a refuge in the countryside.

Between November and the end of March, when food is scarce, hedgehogs hibernate to conserve energy and remain largely inactive. For the rest of the year, they are mostly nocturnal, moving over areas of 10-50ha during the summer, and 1-2km each night.

How Can I Help Hedgehogs?

1/ If you see a hedgehog during daylight, do not ignore it—it is almost certainly in distress. Put on gloves, put it in a box with a lid and airholes (a cat-carrier is ideal if you have one) and take it inside to keep it warm. Then call Tamworth Hedgehog Rescue on 01827 701 219 / 07946 076 474 for advice.

2/ Ensuring hedgehogs can pass freely through your garden is the most important thing you can do to help them. This can be as simple as leaving a gap under your gate, or making a 13 x 13cm hole in your fence (as long as this is open to a larger area that hedgehogs can access e.g. a hedgerow). This is even more effective if lots of adjoining neighbours do the same. Hedgehog-friendly gravel boards are available for new-builds—make sure your contractor is using them!

3/ Never feed hedgehogs bread and milk. Hedgehogs will relish: meat-based dog or cat food; unsalted chopped or crushed peanuts; sunflower hearts, dried or fresh meal worms (in moderation). A shallow dish of water is also welcome.

4/ Give a hedgehog a home. The best way to provide a nesting option for hedgehogs is by creating a natural feature, such as a compost heap or log pile, as this has the added benefit of encouraging insect prey too. Artificial hedgehog houses are also used by hedgehogs and can be really fun to make.

Map your hedgehog sighting, hole, or house on the 'big hedgehog map'. Visit www.hedgehogstreet.org/ for more information. The site also has instructions on how to build hedgehog houses and feeders as well as lots, lots more. You can even become a local hedgehog champion!



Spotted at 2pm in Austrey. At 10.5oz this young hedgehog was quite underweight. She was taken to Tamworth Hedgehog Rescue where it was found she had a serious worm infestation. She will be fed well, nursed back to health, and kept overwinter; and released back into the wild in spring.

Quiz Night : 10 November

Are you ready for an evening of fun and laughter? Then round up your friends and come to Austrey village hall to test your general knowledge.

A great night's entertainment for just £6pp, in teams of 4 (£24/team). Price includes a delicious freshly-carved hot pork roll and a slice of gateau. No need to bring your own tippie—our value licensed bar sells wine, beer, lager, & soft drinks.

Space is limited at this ever-popular event and you must book a table. To reserve your place, contact **Joan Ainscow on 830 658**, or email austreygardeningociety@gmail.com

Where's ya bin?

The village hall green wheelie bin has mysteriously disappeared. Rumours abound — has it been snaffled by wheelie bin racers, or perhaps it is being used as an impromptu swimming pool!

But (seriously) if anyone knows of its whereabouts please let us know, or arrange for its return.

Cheers!



Mary Ann Evans Hospice Charity Fundraiser

On Sunday 27th August a number of intrepid villagers from Austrey, plus their friends and family, took part in a charity safari walk in 30° heat. The event was organised to raise funds for the Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

The Mary Ann Evans Hospice believes everyone in Nuneaton, Bedworth, Atherstone, Coleshill and the surrounding villages in northern Warwickshire should be offered the choice of quality end of life care and provides specialised care, support and advice to patients and their families when living with a life limiting illness.

The charity walk was four miles around the locality – wearing fancy dress! Some of the costumes included a 7' dinosaur, Judge Dredd, Princess Fiona, Batman, and Robin Daenerys from Game of Thrones. Participants stopped at various points along the route for food.

The walk finished at The Bird where the final course of cheese was eaten and prizes given for the fancy dress. The highlight of the day was the 'naff raffle' where winners were stunned and surprised by the aprons and tea towels they won!

The event was organised by Gemma Barlow Manders and Heidi Dickens, supported by Ellen Beaty and Colin Masters. Gemma, Heidi, Ellen and Colin also provided the food – a delicious seven courses in total. Many thanks go to Zak and Bianca at Prezzybox who welcomed us into their courtyard for two courses (one at the start one at the end) and also took amazing photos.

It was a fabulous day and the village and friends raised £455 for the Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

Next year promises to be bigger and better!



The Annual General Meeting of Austrey Archery Group indicated that the club has a healthy membership, and our finances are strong enough to enable us to buy new training equipment for our courses.

Wednesday evening shoots on Austrey Playing Field will soon come to an end as the nights draw in, but will continue until late Autumn on Saturday afternoons at 1.30pm. We will then move indoors to Shuttington Village Hall on Saturday afternoons during the Winter months. You are most welcome to come along and talk to us about archery and club membership.

Our next training course in October for would-be archers is now fully booked. We will be organising a further course in 2018 so, if you might be interested in taking up the sport, email austreyarcherygroup@hotmail.co.uk. The courses usually are over-subscribed, so early booking is essential.

One of the great things about archery is that it may be practised throughout the year, and is a good way to keep fit in an enjoyable way during the Winter months. Think about it!

Community Timeline

Events and activities for your calendar



Romeo Club (short for Retired Old Men eating out) is a social club where older men meet at a local public house, have a meal if they wish, a pint and a natter.

Lunch-time meetings are held on the last Friday of each month, usually at the Appleby Inn on the A444.

Occasionally we organise outside visits and recently visited the RAF museum at Cosford and the Castle Donnington Motor Museum. Next month we plan to visit the Air and Space museum at Leicester.

We welcome new members and if anyone is interested please contact **John Daley on 01827 830538** — or just turn up at the Appleby Inn on the last Friday of the month

Austrey Social Group is organising a day trip to Chester on June 10th 2018 – cost £15; pick up Austrey, Warton and Tamworth.

Contact **Diana Davies 896 733 diana6539@yahoo.co.uk**

Austrey WI hold a 'community coffee and chat' at Austrey village hall on the last Tuesday of each month from 10 till 12 midday (unless otherwise advertised) See the poster outside of the village shop and village hall. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

The kids are back at school but are you driving responsibly and are they safe on the roads?

Visit bit.ly/2wAvXEU for safe cycling, walking, and driving tips for everyone from ROSPA.

Community talks by professional speakers; for those interested in gardening, nature, and history. All welcome—just turn up and listen for only £2 per talk. Enjoy a free cuppa and a biscuit (and a friendly natter) afterwards. Held monthly, on Friday nights at 7.30pm, at Austrey village hall. Organised by AGS.

13th Oct: "Apple juicing", bring your own apples and have a go!

10th Nov: Quiz night & hot supper pre-booking essential (see article)

ADDENDUM: We have been advised that the Austrey Social Group actually meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 10am - 12 noon. The meeting day provided for our last edition was incorrect.

Austrey WI: 13th October "Fun with Clay"; 9 November - AGM; 22 November trip to Chatsworth House to see the Christmas decorations. For more info, contact **Pat Lamb 839153**

The Austrey Arts & Craft group has restarted after a summer break.

The club meets every Wednesday at Austrey village hall from 10am-12noon. We create many pictures, embroidery, knitting or you can just have a coffee biscuit & chat. Why not drop in and see us? All are welcome.

List Your Event With Us!

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

Austrey Neighbourhood Watch

As the nights draw in, the opportunities for thieves can increase if your home is left in darkness. Here are some simple tips to keep your property safe.



- At home, use a timer switch on a light and tv or radio so that they come on when it gets dark, giving your home a lived-in look.
- Lock all doors before you go out and when you go to bed, and ensure all windows are secure before leaving your home.
- Register your possessions on free online property database www.immobilise.com. It can help police return them to you if they are lost or stolen.
- Don't leave valuable possessions or keys on view by windows.
- Keep your shed securely locked by using a strong padlock as the bare minimum, and remember to lock your garden gate. Never leave valuables in your garage, shed or other out buildings unless you secure them with good quality locks. You could also consider using a shed alarm; they are cheap and effective in reducing thefts from sheds or garages.
- Keep hedges and shrubs in your front garden below windowsill height to prevent a burglar having a 'screen' to work behind.
- Install security lighting.
- Don't leave any valuables in your car. Even if you know the bag on the front seat is empty a thief may still try their luck - leaving you with a broken window to deal with.
- Remove your sat nav and its holder from the car and make sure you wipe away any suction marks.
- Don't leave tools or equipment in your vehicle over night

Marking your property is a positive way to fight crime. It acts as a deterrent, allows you to prove ownership, and provides a means for the Police to identify it as stolen and return the property to you. It also enables the Police to link property to a crime and help charge offenders

Property can be marked in a number of ways:

- UV Pens – for electrical items etc.
- Permanent marker pens – for tools and garden equipment
- Smartwater – a wide variety of applications; jewellery, ornaments, electrical items and even your motor vehicle. Each bottle contains a unique chemical 'code' which is registered to you, conclusively proving ownership.
- Labels – Ideal for bikes and garden equipment

Neighbourhood Watch have a limited supply of UV and black permanent marker pens that we can supply free of charge – subject to availability (1 of each per household). We also have a very special price of £10 per Smartwater kit that can property mark up to 30 items. Treat it as a small investment in safeguarding your valuables.

Please contact **Beryl Grix, bbgrix@btinternet.com, tel 01827 830363, or Colin Cartwright, cpcartwright@yahoo.co.uk, mobile 07974 924195**, if you are interested in any of the above property marking items.

Also contact us if you would like to join the Neighbourhood Watch. You will receive email alerts, helping us to all work together to make our village safe, and send a message to thieves that we are not an easy target.

Seen Someone Acting Suspiciously? Call the Police!

Have you seen someone behaving strangely? Can you describe them?

If you spot someone who may be behaving strangely, or differently to what is expected, then report it to the Police using the 101 service.

It might not seem very much to you, but it might be something that helps the police. If you see a crime in action Call 999.

For more crime prevention advice visit: <http://www.nwnhw.co.uk/>
Or facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWNHW/>



Smartwater cannot be easily seen by the naked eye and is almost impossible to remove.

Parish Council in Crisis

Austrey Parish Council is struggling to recruit new Parish Councillors. The situation now is so desperate that the September meeting could not even take place as the council was not quorate.

A parish of our size should have 7 Parish Councillors to represent and act on behalf of the village. There are currently only 3.

Can you HELP Austrey by becoming a Parish Councillor?

As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and be involved in real change. It helps if you're a "people person" who enjoys talking to other residents but, more importantly, you need to have the concerns and best interests of the parish as a whole at heart. Councillors are community leaders and represent the aspirations of the public that they serve.

There is no need for previous experience of local government, and training and support is available for those who would like to develop their knowledge and/ or need help. The below list is not comprehensive (there are some disqualifications relating to candidacy too complex to outline here), but the main requirements and qualities needed to be a Parish Councillor are:

- Over 18 and a British subject or Irish citizen
- On the electoral register for Austrey (although there are certain exceptions)
- Able to attend regular evening meetings
- Have an interest in local issues and things which affect people.
- Keen to improve the local environment and quality of life.
- An understanding and willingness to represent the views of the whole community.
- An interest in learning and developing your role in the community

For more information, contact the Parish Clerk who will be happy to talk over the role of Parish Councillor with you.



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

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

WRCC Energy

WRCC has run a community oil buying syndicate since October 2012.

Together we've ordered nearly 3.5 million litres and saved £179,000 on behalf of members.

Now from 2nd September 2017 there's even more of an incentive to join with the introduction of our new **FREE** WRCC Energy membership scheme. Customers can still order monthly and the more people who join, the more savings we can negotiate as a syndicate.

For further details please phone 01789 472619

or visit www.wrccenergy.org.uk

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