

Parish Council Office, Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, WF7 7JH 01977 611583  
Website [www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) E-mail [info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Normal Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am to Noon



## Message from the Chairman – Cllr Sarah Balfour

The time has come round again for the Parish Council to agree the budget for the coming year. This year we have been able to set a budget that means no increase in the overall precept paid by Ackworth households.

In addition to the regular services and maintenance, money will be made available for projects around the village and improvements to the facilities managed by the Parish Council.

- Installation of additional seats and planters in the village.
- Improvements to the footpath on Dando Way under the Barnsley Road.
- Improvements to the road leading into the cemetery.
- Repairs to the wall around Carr Bridge playing fields.
- An inspection of all trees on land for which the Parish Council is responsible.
- Installation of new heaters at the Brackenhill Centre.
- Improvements to Bell Lane car park.

These improvements will happen during the next 12 months for the benefit of all Ackworth residents.

## Quiz Night at Low Ackworth Community Centre

Low Ackworth Community Association are holding on quiz night on Friday 8 March at 7.30pm to raise funds for a new community centre. Tickets are £5 each and includes a pie and pea supper. For tickets contact Judith Rooke 01977 611285 or Sarah Balfour 07799 037397



## Defibrillator at the Community Centre

The Parish Council has funded another defibrillator in the village; sited on the wall outside of the Parish Council Community Centre on Bell Lane. In 2017 a defibrillator was fitted to the pavilion building at Carr Bridge and it has been used many times.

Defibrillators can be life-saving pieces of equipment having them placed in the community can greatly increase the chance of a positive outcome should someone be in cardiac arrest.

Thank you to the Rory James Embling Foundation for its kind donation towards the cost of this.

## Parish Assembly – Monday 1 April 2019

**This year's Parish Assembly will be held on 1 April at 6:30 pm prior to the Parish Council meeting. The agenda will be published on the website. Everyone who is on the electoral register for the parish of Ackworth is eligible to attend. The Chairman of the Parish Council will preside at the meeting.**

## Community Day and Ackworth Art Walk

Just as our last newsletter was going to print in October, the Parish Council held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Day at the Parish Council Community Centre. This time the event was held in partnership with Made in Ackworth and saw local creative businesses and local community groups come together to showcase what goes on in your village. Parish Councillors provided refreshments, and holding a raffle to raise funds for the Senior Citizens Christmas Tea.



## WWI Commemorations

Ackworth resident Helen Parkinson contacted the Parish Council last spring with the idea to plant an oak tree to commemorate the end of WWI. A tree was duly planted on the grassed area outside of Ackworth Cemetery and in November the Parish Council held a tree dedication service. Rev Charlotte Smith led the ceremony and buglers from the Royal British Legion sounded The Last Post. School children from the village read out the names of those servicemen from

Ackworth who lost their lives in this war.

Additionally, on 11 November the Parish Council and Ackworth Heritage Group took part in "A Nations Tribute" and lit a beacon at the Water Tower, symbolising the end to the darkness of war and a return to the light of peace. A special thank you to young Tyler McCluskey who compèred the event and made it so memorable.

Pict. Mrs Helen Parkinson with members of the Royal British Legion, Parish Councillors and Rev Charlene Smith at the oak tree.

## Festive Events 2018

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time of year. Our festivities started on 30<sup>th</sup> November with our Christmas lights switch on; A carol service led by Churches Together was held in All Saints Church and Gala Queen Macey Firth switched the lights on.

The children of Ackworth were treated to another fantastic Santa visit on 8 December. It was a wonderful day with over 300 local children being welcomed into the grotto. This event is funded by the Parish Council and each child receives a free goodie bag. Thank you to GMB who donated a squishy toy for each bag and to Tesco Hemsworth who kindly donated fruit for the children.

Pictured; Macey in Church before the Lights Switch on, Oliver, Jessica, Charlotte, Holly, Jasper and Hector at Santa Day, and an image from the Senior Citizens Christmas Tea.



On 11 December it was the senior citizens who were treated to an afternoon of entertainment and dinner at the Senior Citizens Christmas Tea. Thank you to Ackworth United Charities, Featherstone and District Lions CIO, the ladies of Ackworth Service Centre, and Ackworth Parish Council for providing funding each year for this event and special thanks to Ackworth School who kindly provide the venue free of charge. It is such a lovely occasion and always proves very popular.



## Ackworth Cemetery

Staff have moved a hedgerow as part of landscaping improvement work at the cemetery to create more space. The improvements will reduce the area previously used to store the dustbin and grave spoil.



### ROOMS AVAILABLE TO HIRE

Having a children's party or looking for a regular booking at a venue? We have rooms available to hire.

Visit [www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov](http://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov).

## Improvements to the Youth Shelter

Ackworth Parish Council would like to thank Ackworth Juniors for their efforts in coordinating the improvement project to the youth shelter on Bell Lane. The project, funded by District Councillors, has seen the shelter being re-sprayed after it was initially decorated last summer then unfortunately defaced. Another brilliant job done by the professional graffiti artist Elliott Wigzell and it's looking as good as new.

Fingers crossed that the work can be appreciated and left untouched for the people of Ackworth to admire indefinitely.



## New Footpath off Dando Way

The Parish Council has funded a new tarmac footpath on Dando Way leading from the main footpath across to the pedestrian gate on Heaton Street. This will be a great improvement for pedestrians and feedback has been very positive.

**Scouts**   
Join and learn a  
skill of life

**For further details contact Tom Peacock 01977 611225**

Beavers	Ackworth Howard School – Tues	5:15pm – 6:15pm	Age 6-8yrs
Cubs	Ackworth Howard School – Tues	6:30pm – 8pm	Age 8-11yrs
Scouts	Low Ackworth Comm. Centre - Tues	6:30pm – 8pm	Age 11-14yrs



## Craft Club Celebrating 10 Years

Back in 2009 the Parish Council provided a small grant to enable the club to get up and running and within a very short space of time the group was self-funding and has gone from strength to strength. The group meet each Monday from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the Parish Council Community Centre on Bell Lane. Bring your own project and craft in a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

## Parish Council Drop-In 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Each Month

The Parish Council hold a Drop-In session on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Parish Council Community Centre on Bell Lane. The monthly sessions started in April 2008 and are well established with around 35 people attending each month. All Ackworth residents are welcome to come along and socialise with other local people. Refreshments are provided along with free games of bingo from 1pm to 3.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month.

### Allotments Waiting List

The Parish Council has agreed to open up its waiting list to non-residents. The decision was made as the waiting list has been dwindling and they do not want to be left in a situation where they have vacant plots.

Non-residents can become tenants however priority will always be given to those persons who reside within the boundaries of the parish. Visit [www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) for

### Bell Lane Car Park Improvements

Following a spate of anti-social behaviour at the car park last summer Ackworth Parish Council met with WY Police, Wakefield Council Car Park Department, Wakefield Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team and District Councillors to discuss how improvements can be made and to find a long term solution.

Plans are now in place to install back to back kerbing, speed humps and a speed bump which the Parish Council will fund.

Wakefield Council will carry out remedial work and provide new line marking. Work is due to commence at the beginning of the new financial year.

## Contacting the Parish Council

If you have any comments, compliments or criticisms to make about the work of the Parish Council, then please contact us in one of the following ways:

BY EMAIL: [clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) or [info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)

BY TELEPHONE: 01977 611583

BY POST / IN PERSON: Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, West Yorkshire, WF7 7JH. The office is situated at the front of the building. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon or by appointment.

Alternatively you are welcome to attend a Parish Council meeting – dates are published on the website and in the notice board at the front of the Community Centre. We have a 'public' session from 7:15 pm for approximately 15 mins.

We endeavour to respond within 7 working days to correspondence received in the above ways. Sue Templeman, Clerk