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Normal Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am to Noon



Message from the Chairman – Cllr Sarah Balfour

Each year the Parish Council must hold a Parish Assembly where any Ackworth resident can come to hear the Chairman's annual report and can raise any issues of concern about the village. **The full report can be found on the Parish Council website so here I will give you a summary of the main points.**



- The Low Ackworth play area has been completely refurbished, the boundary hedges have been trimmed and rubbish removed, and new fencing has been erected.
- There is improved lighting, removal and replanting of some trees and new seating on Dando Way.

The above work was funded by Wakefield Council and achieved through the District Councillors.

- At Carr Bridge playing field work has been done to improve the access path to the play area, and on the steps up to the tubular slide. A damaged willow tree has been removed and three new trees planted.
- A new kissing gate, funded by the Parish Council, will be installed by Wakefield Council at the top of the footpath going down from Green Lane to Hesse Beck.
- In October Councillors and volunteers took part in a Community Speedwatch Scheme operating 'Smiley Sid' to monitor the speed of traffic at key points in the village. Working closely with SELRAG and Wakefield District Councillors, the proposal for a by-pass road for Ackworth has now been moved on to a new stage that will assess the feasibility of the project alongside other road schemes in West Yorkshire.
- The Parish Council works closely with the West Yorkshire Police through PCSO Lorraine Kavanagh. Lorraine has held drop-in sessions for the Ackworth community and has helped residents on the Strata estate to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. She is hoping that more will be set up in other areas of the village.
- Once again the Parish Council organised and supported community events in Ackworth - the annual gala, the Christmas lights switch-on, Santa Day, the Senior Citizens Christmas Tea, children's pumpkin planting and growing, the Big Ackworth Clean-up days.
- During the past year the Parish Council has given grant to Westfield Food Bank in South Elmsall, the B.O.A.R Cottage Charity which provides holidays for disadvantaged young people, CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) Rory Embling Foundation, the annual Pram Race, the Senior Citizens Tea Fund and 1st Ackworth Scouts

Finally I would like to thank Councillors and staff for their hard work and commitment during the past year. We will continue to work positively for the whole Ackworth Community in the coming year.



Follow us on Facebook. The Parish Council has a Facebook page. This enables us to distribute information about numerous matters which may be of interest to the residents of Ackworth, including events, open days, Parish Council meetings etc.

TOUR DE YORKSHIRE

FRIDAY 4TH MAY

As this newsletter goes to print we are at the final stage of preparing to welcome the Tour de Yorkshire through Ackworth. So much effort has been put in by so many people to get the village looking beautiful. Bunting making workshops along with bike painting days have all added to the community spirit.

Ackworth resident Phil Hollinworth has been busy making wooden bikes for the schools in the village. These bikes will be painted by the school children and will be on display on the A628/A638 roundabout.



Shanks Waste Disposal and residents have donated bikes which have been painted yellow; thanks to a donation of primer and paint from Crown Paint.

Ackworth Needles and Pins Craft Group have been holding bunting making sessions; over 100m of fabric has been cut into pendants along with 3km of binding tape. 150 balls of wool have been distributed both to residents and those in the wider community. The response to this has been fantastic.

A large screen will be in place at Carr Bridge to beam live coverage of both the women's and men's races, refreshments will be served from the pavilion. Weather permitting car parking will be available on the field and there will be plenty of space to come along for a "picnic in the park". Ice Cream vans and free face painting will also be available.



ACKWORTH GALA – SATURDAY 30 JUNE

Preparations are well underway for this year's event. The theme for the fancy dress competition is "Sporting Greats".

Mill Dam School will be choosing the Gala Queen, with Bell Lane School and Howard School choosing the Gala Queen Attendants. The parade will be led by Knottingley Silver Band. It will be lovely to welcome a local band and see them perform in the arena. CG Dance Academy and Shadowquest Dog Display will also be entertaining the crowds throughout the day.

There will be community and charity stall, both raising funds for good causes, as well as craft stalls and local tradespeople advertising their businesses.

A climbing wall and bouncy castles will be available free of charge for all those who would like to have a go.

Sue Wright, Amanda Roberts, Julie Ashwell, Chris Embling & Martyn Ashwell

Ackworth Beer Fest

Held on March 9th and 10th 2018 at the Parish Council Community Centre, in aid of The Rory James Embling Foundation at Cardiac Risk in the Young, the Beer Fest raised £4024.00 for Rory's charity. The Fest was attended by over 500 people. We are very grateful to all the local businesses and private sponsors who sponsored a barrel and Ackworth Parish Council for allowing us to use our (1907) Ackworth Community Centre for the event. Thanks also to all who attended the event and enjoyed the tipple.



The money raised will be used to heart screen 100 local young people (14-35 years of age) on the 26th May at Rory's Return in Ackworth. Details of this can be found at www.testmyheart.org.uk and click on "private screenings". The password for Rory's Return is Rory87. Watch out for the 2nd Fest next year. By Chris Embling



Sunday 25th March welcomed the fifth Ackworth Big Spring Clean and with it some great community spirit. Thirty volunteers, Councillors and Parish Council staff joined us on today's litter pick. 58 full bags of rubbish were removed from the village and confirmation has been received from Streetscene that, including three car bumper and various car

parts found around the village, 320kg were collected so that takes the Spring Clean to 1000kg in less than 12 months; over 100 volunteers across the 5 events organised and 200 volunteer hours. Now to work on a plan to stop it happening in the first place. Making Ackworth a litter free village.

Adam Fletcher, organiser of the Ackworth Big Spring Clean and pictured here with volunteer Emma Clowes said "Special thank you to the volunteers young and old from across the village, Parish Council staff who helped collate the rubbish into a central location, Wakefield MDC Streetscene and Parish and District Councillors for their continued support."



Please follow Ackworth Big Spring Clean on Facebook to keep up to date with future events.

Low Ackworth Community Association

The AGM of Low Ackworth Community Association, held on April 18 and was attended by 17 people including 5 committee members. Those present heard that, thanks to grants from Wakefield Council, the Coop Community Fund, Ackworth Parish Council, Ackworth Show committee and the GMB union, the Community Centre at Low Ackworth now has a new roof, new heaters and new blinds. The inside of the centre will soon be redecorated and cladding will be fixed to the outside. They also heard about the day-to-day work of the committee. Strong views were expressed about this but at the end of the meeting only one new person volunteered to join the management committee. The Low Ackworth Association Committee is very grateful to those who made the effort to come to the meeting and in particular to the new volunteer, however were disappointed that more people had not come along.

Introducing Your Two New Parish Councillors

Following two vacancies at the Parish Council, an election took place on March 15th. Nathan and Mike were voted in. By way of an introduction they have written a small piece about themselves.

Councillor Nathan Bland I am 20 years old and am studying to be a social worker. I have lived in Ackworth all my life. I love my village. As a Parish Councillor I will work positively and constructively with district councillors, community groups and individuals to keep Ackworth a great place to live. I look forward to the prospect of being involved in the community in such a direct and meaningful way and to be able to voice the views and experiences of a young person on the Parish Council.



Councillor Mike Galvin I was born in Middlesbrough and studied Medicine at Leeds. I worked as a consultant haematologist at Pinderfields hospital until my retirement in 2006, I have lived in Ackworth for almost 40 years and so I know what a brilliant, active, supportive community we have - so many people volunteering their time and energy to organise and take part in a wide range of groups and activities. I have lived through the changes in our village and I understand its needs. I am committed to doing my best to improve life for people in Ackworth.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM - MEET YOUR PCSO

PCSO Lorraine Kavanagh holds regular informal drop-in sessions around the village. Come and discuss issues in connection with Policing matters. These are not formal meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. Details of these sessions can be found on noticeboards around the village and on the Parish Council website.



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 or info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

VIA OUR WEBSITE: – www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk use the 'Contact Us' section.

BY TELEPHONE: 01977 611583

VIA FACEBOOK: private message us at Ackworth Parish Council.

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