



Ackworth
Churches
Together

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACKWORTH



This is Ackworth 



A week before we were all told to stay at home, Ackworth Parish Council and Churches Together, ably assisted by Ackworth School, and supported by This is Ackworth, came together to produce a scheme aimed at helping those who might have to isolate themselves due to illness, or, as it turned out, shield themselves. Within days, this scheme was up and running and we soon started to receive requests for help.

Anyone who is isolated at home and has no one to help them with supplies or prescriptions, or just needs a friendly chat can ring reception at Ackworth School (01977 233600) between 8:30am and 4:30pm with their request. This request is then passed to a coordinator, who then contacts one of the volunteers, who carries out the request.

Volunteers delivered leaflets to every home in the village and we currently have over one hundred volunteers willing to help with this scheme, who have responded to many requests for help over the last four weeks.

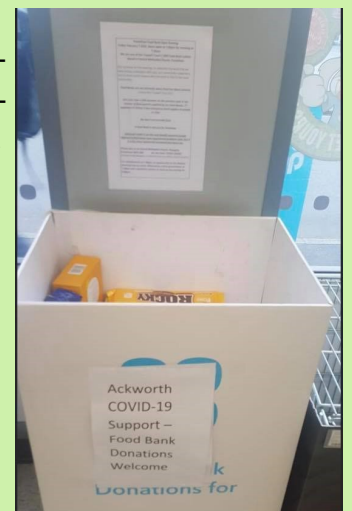
Together with the Community Church we have also developed a small collection of supplies which we can use in an emergency. Ackworth Coop has kindly said that the team can use the donation box within store to distribution to people in need.

A business directory has been setup showing local businesses that are providing home delivery and click&collect services. This can be viewed at https://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/News/Business%20List.pdf

This is a fantastic example of how our community and its organisations can come together to work for the benefit of our community. We hope we can continue this feeling for positive action into the future. Thank you to all those involved in this scheme.

FOOD DONATIONS REQUIRED

Food is required for the Ackworth Covid-19 Community Food Bank; supporting those in need across Ackworth. The Co-op has kindly allowed us to use their collection point and donations can also be made at All Saints Church on Wakefield Road. Items required include tinned meat (corned beef, pek, spam etc), tinned peas, bags of pasta, bags of rice, green UHT milk, toilet rolls, biscuits and dilute juice. These donations help the response team provide food parcels to those contacting the helpline. **For help please call 01977 233600.**



Sunflowers Symbolise Positivity and Strength

An initiative brought to us by Ackworth resident Helen Parkinson, the Parish Council have given out sunflower seeds to residents so they can plant them in their gardens. Seeds have been left at the village green in High Ackworth, Hinitts Bakery in Low Ackworth, Ackworth Garden Centre, Go Local and on the gates at the entrance to Brackenhill Allotments. Let's hope these are in bloom in the summer to bring cheer to our village during this extraordinary time.



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY

A Shared Moment of Celebration

In October last year volunteers from the village along with representatives from the Royal British Legion and Church, got together to organise some lovely events for the VE Day 75th Anniversary.

Unfortunately due to the social gathering restrictions the party in the park planned for 9 May had to be cancelled. This was such a shame as it was sure to be a great afternoon with involvement from the school choirs, live music and entertainment into the early evening.

Residents still got into the spirit as they were able to join in from a distance by decorating their home with bunting and flags, some organised live music in their street, and others having socially distanced afternoon tea with neighbours. A 2 minute silence from doorsteps throughout the village and a nationwide sing-a-long to "We'll meet again"

The VE and VJ signs pictured below have been made by resident Phil Hollinworth and have been decorated by pupils from Ackworth Howard School, Mill Dam School, Oakfield Park School, Outwood Primary Academy Bell Lane and some volunteers and are currently on view at the Beverley Arms roundabout and on the War Memorial.



Adventure Trails

Local resident Helen Roslyn has created several adventure trails for children that can be followed whilst families are out on their daily walk.

The trails; along Dando Way, Green Lane and Hessle Common have been a welcome distraction. Having seen the trails another resident has made some wooden decorations to accompany the stories.

In addition to these, created by lots of residents, there's also the teddy bear hunt, rainbow hunt and Ackworth rocks to keep an eye out for whilst out and about.



Pictures of Ackworth taken by resident David Kirtlan. More images can be seen on the Parish Council website of the beautiful views available in our village.

www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Recognition for Ackworth Residents

Mayor Says “Thank You” Award

Mrs Betty Johnson and Mrs Judith Rooke have both been recognised by the Mayor of Wakefield recently for their service to the community.

Nominated by District Councillors Allan Garbutt and Jessica Carrington respectively, both residents have dedicated a huge amount of their time to the local community.

The 'Mayor Says Thanks' award has been designed to shine a light on individuals/groups who often go about their business without any fuss and quite often for the benefit of others.

The event, held at Wakefield Town Hall allows the Mayor to personally present recipients with a certificate in recognition of their efforts and given them a big 'pat on the back' to thank them for all they do.



Celebrating the success of Ackworth residents Don Saul and Alice Robson

In April, the Lawn Tennis Association named Don Saul as 'Volunteer of the Year'; and Head Coach, Alice Robson as 'Coach of the Year for the North of England 2020'.

The awards recognise the winners' outstanding contributions to grassroots tennis in Yorkshire, and both Alice and Don fought off stiff competition to win the recognition they undoubtedly deserve for their parts in transforming Ackworth Tennis Club.

“I doubt that there is any other Club in the country that has experienced the membership growth that Ackworth Tennis Club has achieved - from 17 to 145 in 18 months; a 700+% increase” explains Richard Garrett C.E.O. of The Tim Henman Foundation who wrote the award nomination for Don.

“This is down to the quality of the leadership and the coaching. Don Saul and Alice Robson need particular praise. They have embraced change and external partnerships with Ackworth School, Yorkshire Tennis, The Tim Henman Foundation and BECSLink.”

Don's leadership was recognised by the award panel as being instrumental in helping to convert the club into an inclusive, diverse and dynamic organisation.

Giving freely of his time and energy, Don has worked tirelessly with a myriad of partners to develop the club and its links within the local community.

Presenting Alice with her Coach of the Year award, Adrian Waites of Yorkshire tennis, announced “Alice has been the inspiration behind a remarkable turnaround in the levels of tennis participation at the club”.

Her community work has introduced tennis activity to over 2,000 school children at 17 local Primary schools, and she has supported the development of 2 further coaches at the Club.

Members new and existing are welcome at Ackworth tennis club, which prides itself on inclusivity. We use the excellent tennis courts of Ackworth school. If you are interested, please visit the Ackworth tennis club website



Ackworth Scarecrow Festival

A new group has been setup on Facebook—Ackworth Scarecrow Festival, and there seems to be lots of interest.

Some brilliant creations beginning to appear around the village. Take a look and join in and let's see if this can be an annual event .

ACKWORTH GALA 2020 CANCELLED

Unfortunately due to the coronavirus restrictions this year's gala has been cancelled.

Pumpkin Planting



In light of the cancellation of our annual pumpkin planting event, seeds have been despatched to those residents who would have been taking part in the event.

It is always a lovely event, with children and families have an opportunity to visit to allotments. It may be that we can still have our event in October for the children to show their pumpkins off at the weigh-in

Tree Work in Progress

At the end of last year a tree survey was carried out on the trees in the village that the Parish Council has responsibility for. All priority 1 and 2 safety work has now been completed. Priority 3 work, usually recommended for aesthetics or good arboricultural practice rather than risk management, will be completed when needed.

Many donations of nesting boxes for birds and bats were received, including some from Mr Martin Conway, donated by the "Men in Sheds" group he attends. Thanks to S&D landscapes for installing these.

New Website



Our new website is now up and running, www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk It's now easier to navigate. Please take a look to see what services the Parish Council offer along with the facilities that are available for hire. Councillor details are also included there along with minutes from the full Parish Council meetings.

Contacting the Parish Council

If you have any comments, compliments or criticisms to make about the work of the Parish Council or if you would like clarification on what we do, then please contact us in one of the following ways:

BY EMAIL: clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk or info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

VIA Private Message on Facebook

Find us on 

Ackworth Parish Council

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 minutes.

We endeavour to respond within 7 working days to correspondence received in the above ways.

Sue Templeman, Clerk