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Due to staffing levels the Parish Council office will be closed from 14 November. We are still contactable by telephone and email.

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope you have had a lovely summer, there's certainly been plenty going on. This edition of the newsletter covers our events over the summer including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Gala. You'll also see what Christmas festivities are planned.

The Parish Council will be working with Churches Together and Ackworth Community Library to provide Warm Spaces over the winter months. More details to follow or contact 01977 611583.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Santa Day

Saturday 10th December
Bell Lane Community Centre

All pre-school and primary aged school children of our Parish will be allowed to attend. This year an online booking system with time slots will be available to reduce queuing time. A live link will be on our Facebook page and website or contact the Parish Council office to book. This is a free event.

Annual

Senior Citizens Christmas Tea

Tuesday 13th December, 3.30pm—7pm.

Held at Ackworth School. This is a free event for Senior Citizens who live in Ackworth parish.

A three course meal is provided along with entertainment. Transport is available for those that need it. Keep an eye out for posters around the village. **No need to book, just turn up.**



**ACKWORTH'S 2022
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
SWITCH-ON**

Friday 25th November



All Saints Church
Wakefield Road

Carol service at 6pm followed by the
Lights Switch-on by the Gala
Queen and King

Bring your homemade lanterns - look at the events
section on www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



**AND ALL THE VERY BEST FOR A
HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2023, FROM THE
PARISH COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND
STAFF OF ACKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL.**

A BIG THANK YOU

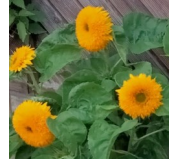
We're very lucky to have plenty of incredible residents who keep your village looking beautiful. Volunteering on a regular basis to litter pick around the village (and beyond) and keep garden areas tidy. A special mention to Alyson Barker, Ackworth 74 Club and the Ackworth Litter Fairies.



Also providing a great service to the village are the volunteers and workers who run clubs for young people in the area; Guides, Scouts, Rugby, Football, Cricket, Tennis, Karate, to name but a few.

A special mention to Kirsty Hazelgrave who has been working with Wakefield Council and the Parish Council in looking to provide a youth club in the village.

Pictured: Volunteer Rob on one of his regular litter picks and the garden area on Bell Lane



For three years now the Parish Council has provided sunflower seeds for residents to sow and grow in their garden. Here are some photographs sent in from around the village.

Ackworth Community Library

Bell Lane Community Centre, Tel: 01977 625617

It has been a busy summer for Ackworth Community Library as it continues to develop as an important community hub for the village. Our successful bid for Lottery Funds has provided four new computers for customer use with a link up to printers, providing essential technical support for all members of our community, job seekers, senior citizens, students and anyone who needs help with on-line tasks.

We welcomed Mill Dam School for a library experience session. The Summer Reading Scheme and activities for the children were very popular.



Our regular activities continue.: **Pre school story time** on Fridays at 9.30am

Coffee Mornings every 3rd Friday morning of the month- with hot drinks and a selection of home made cakes. Books and Jigsaws for sale. **Monthly Book Club** Information re hours and activities can be found in the library and on our website <https://ackworthcommunitylibrary.org.uk/> and Facebook page.

Tickets are now on sale in the Library for our **Grand Christmas Raffle** featuring some excellent prizes including a Christmas hamper. Children's activities and a Christmas lucky dip will be running throughout December.

2023 will see the Library celebrate its 10 year anniversary!

Check our Website and Facebook page for the activities planned to celebrate this!

Could you help? Do you have a little spare time? Ackworth Community Library is a Charitable Trust which relies heavily on volunteers, (see photo opposite), donations and grants to stay open and serve our community.

Thank You To The Parish Council And Some Of Our Local Businesses That Regularly Support Us. We Welcome Any Support You Can Give Us.



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Parish Council took part in lots of events in the run up to the extended bank holiday weekend and the village looked amazing.

Best Dressed House Competition

Residents were invited to get creative and decorate the outside of their home and garden. Thirteen entries were received, and judging took place on Saturday 28 May. After much deliberation the winners were;
1st : 50 Bank Avenue, 2nd : Jade House, Bell Lane,
3rd : 50 Mount Pleasant.



Pictured: Councillors with Theresa, runner up in the Best Dressed House Competition

Special thanks to Ackworth Community Hub for mapping the houses for us.

Trimming Up Of The Village A huge **THANK YOU** to **Ackworth Needles and Pins**

The craft group were instrumental in the decorating your village. The Parish Council provided free room hire by way of the thank you to the ladies of the group who spent many a night creating and sewing over 10,000 pendants of bunting.

Local businesses, residents and a Wakefield Council Grant helped fund the project along with donations of old duvet covers, curtains and other recycled items.



Pollinator Beeboms A positively buzzing mix of nectar rich wildflower seeds

Seed bombs were purchased for each primary school aged child in the village. Filled with an explosive mix of organic peat-free compost and wildflower, the children were encouraged to "throw it and grow it" in their gardens to help sustain bee, butterfly and other insect populations.

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

The Queen's Green Canopy is a UK wide tree planning initiative that invites everyone to plant a tree from the growing season of October 2021 to the end of 2022, to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

Communities are being encouraged to increase and protect native tree cover. The Parish Council donated a Hornbeam tree to each school in the village.



Ackworth Flower Festival We were pleased to take part in this community event organised by Ackworth Parish Church, held at St Cuthbert's Church over the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Visitors to the Church were certainly treated to some beautiful displays.

The Parish Council's display comprised of sunflowers to represent Ukraine, white roses to represent Yorkshire and oak leaves to represent Ackworth.

New Ackworth Boundary Signs

You must have seen the new boundary signs by now. They historically reflect our most notable residents and features. Each sign has a different "Home of". Take a look at our website to find out about each of them.

New Benches at Carr Bridge and Improved Pedestrian Access

Two new benches have been installed overlooking the playing field, a great edition for those coming to watch sport or simply to sit and relax. Additionally, the pedestrian entrance to the field from Mill Lane has been resurfaced making it more accessible.

Repairs and Improvement to the Youth Shelter

Two seats and side panels have been removed and the remaining panels have been replaced with mesh. It's also had a fresh coat of paint.

Coming Soon - New picnic benches for Low Ackworth play area.



ACKWORTH GALA 2022 Thank you for your support.

Finally, we saw the return of the Village Gala following a 2-year break due to Covid 19.

The format was slightly revised from previous years in that there was no parade through the village, but that didn't stop those that wanted to enter into the fancy dress competition! It was great to see the community come together on what proved to be a successful day even though in true 'Gala style' the heavens opened in the afternoon, thankfully it didn't last too long.

The feedback received was positive with a few suggestions for amendments for next year which will be taken on board.



Pictured: Juggling Tim Zoot, Gala Queen, Gala King and Attendants, Fancy Dress Entrants, Parish Councillors Amanda Cook, Sarah Balfour, John Bell, Martin Roberts and Mike Galvin along with Deputy Mayor of Normanton Cllr Julie Medford and Deputy Mayor's Consort, Daniel Wilton. Parish Councillors also in attendance but not in the photograph; Tony Hames, Sue Hollyhead, Terry Hollyhead, Stephen Parker and Sean Richmond. Cllr Roberts and the Gala Queen Faith Connelly officially open the gala and Wild in the Country Ferret.

Pumpkin Weigh In 2022

Following on from the planting day in April, this year's pumpkin growers delighted us with an impressive selection of 18 pumpkins at the weigh-in; ranging between 4.72kg and 140g.

The celebration hosted in partnership with Ackworth Parish Council and the Allotment Association was enjoyed by families, Parish Councillors and allotment tenants, who all revelled in their pumpkin growing stories.

The afternoon saw the official weigh-in, crafts, light refreshments, pumpkin recipe ideas and celebrated the children's participation in the event. Well done to all who took part.



The Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II — Thursday 8th September 2022

With sadness the news was announced by Buckingham Palace and the nation prepared for the state funeral held at Westminster Abbey on 19th September 2022. A memorable turnout from the public, a magnificent ceremony and a heartfelt Church service, all of which was televised throughout the day. Thank you to everyone involved in the organising of this 'no small feat' which was executed with absolute precision and care.

The Parish Council placed a wreath at the war memorial and provided a quiet space for the community to reflect and sign the Book of Condolence.

