



Message from the Chairman - Cllr Sarah Balfour

May 2020 will see celebrations of the anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the 2nd World War, and later in the year VJ Day on which the war with Japan ended. These events, detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, are being organised by a committee open to all Ackworth residents. All support is welcome.



Two Ackworth residents who voluntarily give up their time for our community are mentioned in this newsletter. Our village has so many people who run and support the many community organisations that make Ackworth such a great place to live and we give our thanks to all of them.

This time last year I reported on various improvements that were planned around the village. These are now complete or about to be completed very soon. Most are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. The Parish Council is grateful to District Councillors Martyn Ward, Jessica Carrington and Allan Garbutt in securing this funding for some of these improvements and to Wakefield Council for the work done by its staff.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES AND VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Litter Improvements

In response to requests from residents a litter bin has been fitted near the Youth Shelter off Bell Lane Car Park. The bin which has been adopted by Wakefield Council to be emptied on a regular basis.



There are two Spring Community Litter Picks scheduled so far this year:



Saturday 21st March 9am-11 *Ackworth School*

Sunday 22nd March 10am-12 noon *Bell Lane Community Centre*

Saturday 16th May 9am-11 *Ackworth School*

Sunday 17th May 10am—12 noon *Bell Lane Community Centre*

Bell Lane Car Park Improvements

Improvements at Bell Lane Car Park have now been completed. After reports of anti-social behaviour within the car park it was agreed by District Councillors, Wakefield Council and Ackworth Parish Council that new lighting, CCTV, speed bumps and line markings would be added to the car park.

Ackworth Cemetery

Work will be carried out in the Cemetery grounds over the coming months on the boundary wall and footpath entrance. Also following communication with the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission a new plaque has been attached to the entrance gate to commemorate the war graves that are within Ackworth Cemetery.



Planters, Benches & Hanging Baskets

After a long process the Parish Council has purchased three new benches and planters which are soon to be installed. One of each will be placed in Low Ackworth at The Courtway, another is to be sited on Barnsley Road opposite the junction with Bell Lane, and one is to be installed outside the Community Centre on Bell Lane. These will be a welcome addition to the annual hanging baskets that will be distributed around the village. On this note, well done to resident **Linda Phillips** who, with support from Ackworth Parish Council and funding from Ackworth Ladies 74 Club, sought permission from Wakefield Council to plant a flower bed at the top of Station Road. Linda's hard work will soon come into fruition when the winter pansies start to bloom being a beautiful sight for residents and visitors.

Festive Events 2019



The run up to Christmas is always a busy time of year. Our festivities started on *29th November* with our Christmas lights switch on. A carol service was held in All Saints Church and Gala Queen Millie Wortley switched the lights on.

The children of Ackworth were treated to another fantastic Santa visit on the *7th December*. It was a wonderful day with around 300 local children being welcomed into the grotto. This event is funded by the Parish Council and each child received a free goodie bag. Thank you to Tesco Hemsworth who kindly donated fruit for the children.

On *Tuesday 10th December* senior citizens of Ackworth 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 with lots of positive feedback received.



Parish Assembly – Monday 20th April 2020

This year's Parish Assembly will be held on the 20th April at 6:30pm 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.

ACKWORTH GALA 2020

The annual Ackworth Gala will be taking place on Saturday 27th June on Carr Bridge Playing Fields. This is a fundraising event for local charities and community groups with free entertainment and inflatables provided for the children. A themed fancy dress competition will take place. Details of the theme will be published in the next newsletter and on the Ackworth Parish Council website and Facebook page once the Village Events Committee have met.

PUMPKIN SEED PLANTING DAY 2020

Each year Ackworth Parish Council and Brackenhill Allotment Association provide an opportunity for children to grow their own pumpkins. The Parish Council would like to invite all budding gardeners to visit the Allotments on Wakefield Road on **Saturday 25th April from 10am until 12pm**.

There will be some arts/crafts and refreshments provided before the main event of planting a pumpkin seed and finding out how to nurture it. The children will come back to the allotments in October to show off their wares at the annual Pumpkin Weigh In event.

Please register your interest to attend the event in April by contacting the Parish Council via Facebook message, phone or by emailing info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



Pumpkin Seed Planting 2019



Traffic Calming



District Councillors have secured the purchase of traffic calming equipment known as Smiley Sid for use within Ward 1 which includes Ackworth. Once training has been attended by individuals involved, Smiley Sid will be appearing in Ackworth as a traffic calming measure on a rota basis. Working with support and direction from Wakefield Police, fully trained community volunteers will utilise the Speed Indication Device positioned in identified and risk assessed locations. Speedwatch is not an enforcement tool but aims to reduce speeds and improve road safety.

VE/VJ 75th Anniversary Events 2020

On the weekend of May 8th - May 10th events will be taking part across the nation to celebrate and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Residents have been meeting on a regular basis to discuss plans for this special weekend. Plans at the minute look to be a "Toasting" event in the local pubs on Friday 8th, A "Family Picnic" and entertainment in to the evening at Ackworth Cricket Club on Saturday 9th and Remembrance Day services on Sunday 10th at the local churches. A Facebook page has been created to share information and future meeting dates please see "Ackworth Village VE Day Celebration" on Facebook for more updates.



LOW ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM

Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm

Ackworth residents, come along and give the committee your support.

Ackworth Community Library



Have a 'Flying time' join us for activities, fun and stories...

Half Term Harry Potter themed Event -

Wednesday 19th February between 1.30pm and 4.30pm

Scout Leader gets recognition for his efforts

An Ackworth resident—**Tom Peacock** has received a "Mayor Says Thanks Award" for recognition of his work within the community. Tom has been a Scout Leader for 34 years with 1st Ackworth Scout Group as well as a volunteer fundraiser for the Prince of Wales Hospice for 15 years. 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 for the benefit of others. This year, the Mayor has held two 'Mayor Says Thanks' events at Wakefield Town Hall plus other individual presentations across the District where he has personally presented 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.

Tom said "I am grateful for the fact that the group has always been well supported by Ackworth Parish Council and especially Cllr. Allan Garbutt who nominated me for the award." A massive congratulations to Tom!



Happy 90th Birthday Mrs Johnson...

The Parish Council Drop-In afternoon in October helped Mrs Johnson celebrate her 90th birthday. Betty Johnson was presented with some beautiful gifts from the group, and on behalf of Ackworth Parish Council, Cllr Allan Garbutt presented Mrs Johnson with a bouquet of flowers. Cllr Garbutt thanked Mrs Johnson for all of the wonderful work she has done for the community over the years and especially her efforts with the Royal British Legion.



Ackworth Community Library

Mondays - Mobile Phone/Tablet/Laptop help

Wednesday - "Learning in the Library"
3:30pm - 4:30pm (Bookable children's event)
Storytime (Under 5's) 2:00-2:30pm

Fridays - Storytime (Under 5's) 10:00-10:30am

2nd Friday of the month - Coffee Mornings

For more detail please contact the Library on
01977 625617

Facebook @ Ackworth Community Library Group

Community Bus For Ackworth

Do you want better bus services in Ackworth?

Many of us complain about how poorly Ackworth is served by buses. A small but committed development group is meeting regularly to set up a Community Bus service for Ackworth. It is a long and complex task - there are a lot of regulations, and the group needs to secure grant funding for the bus.

If you care about the environment (fewer cars on the road) and about the ability of Ackworth residents to get around within and beyond the village, please contact ackworthcommunitytrans@gmail.com to find out how you can help.



New Website



Ackworth Parish Council have been in the process of updating their website:

www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk we have a new design created by Vision ICT which we believe to be more user friendly and gives an opportunity to include more information for residents—Take a look and let us know your thoughts.

Dates For Your Diary

Parish Assembly—20th April

Pumpkin Seed Planting Event— 25th April

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations— Fri 8th to Sun 10th May

Ackworth Gala—Saturday 27th June

Further details will be published on our website and on Facebook nearer the time.

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 mins.

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

Sue Templeman, Clerk