

# ACKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

October/November 2019  
Autumn Issue

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## Message from the Chairman - Cllr Sarah Balfour

Autumn is here again and the Parish Council is gearing up for the annual Christmas events in Ackworth. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter details of the Christmas lights switch-on, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, and the Santa Day at the Bell Lane Centre. All these events are free. The lights switch on and the Santa Day are organised and paid for by the Parish Council. Ackworth Churches Together organise the short service at the lights switch on and provide tea and biscuits. Volunteers raise funds for the Senior Citizens' party so please give them your support.



There will not be another newsletter before the end of the year so on behalf of all Parish Councillors and staff I would like to wish you good health and happiness in 2020.



We are pleased to announce that we will be participating in VE Day 75, an event being organised to celebrate/commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe. A public meeting was held on 7th October where Cllr Terry Hollyhead, Chairman of the Parish Council's Village Events committee, welcomed members of the public attending and explained what he hoped to see in the village over the weekend 8-10 May 2020. There were lots of ideas contributed and it is set to be a great weekend. A further meeting has been planned on **Monday 18th November at 6pm** at the Parish Council Community Centre. Further details on how to get involved can be found at [www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org).

## Brackenhill Allotments—Pumpkin Weigh In

The annual pumpkin weigh-in took place on Friday 18th October at Brackenhill Allotments. Hosted by the Allotment Association Committee, children who had planted seeds back in April were invited to bring in their harvested pumpkins for a weigh-in. It was a lovely afternoon with children bringing pumpkins of all different shapes and sizes. The heaviest pumpkin weighed in at a staggering 25kgs.



Cllr Terry Hollyhead presented certificates to all those attending.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Allotment Association Committee for their continued support with this free event for local children.



## Remembrance Day 11.11.19

Parish Councillors will be attending the services below to lay a wreath.

**Sunday 10th November 10:50am Parish Eucharist and Act of Remembrance at St Cuthbert's Church**

**Monday 11th November 10:50am Act of Remembrance at Ackworth War Memorial then refreshments at All Saints' Church**

## Ackworth Parish Council Community Day

As the newsletter goes to print we are busy organising the 3rd Community Day. On Saturday 26th October Bell Lane Community Centre opened its doors for residents to browse information stalls about activities/classes that are run in the village. We worked in partnership with the **Made in Ackworth Art Walk** who also had stalls offering handmade products and residents were given the opportunity to visit working studios around the village.

**Ackworth Community Library:** Children's Storytime and activities restart on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Under 5s from 2pm until 2:30pm repeated on Fridays at 10am until 10:30am. 4-11 year olds from 3:30pm until 4:30pm. The Library is also taking part in the Autumn Craft Fair at Ackworth Village Club on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 10 to 3.30pm.

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES AND VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

### Road Safety

The Parish Council's Road Safety Working Group meets bi-monthly to deal with road safety matters within the village. The group carries out reviews, suggests ideas and makes recommendations to the council. Some of the items currently being investigated include the request for a pedestrian crossing on Wakefield Road, a safe crossing point on Barnsley Road south of the A638, a new chevron sign at the end of Long Lane at its junction with Pontefract Road. Concerns have also been raised to Wakefield Council about the speed limit on the A628 up towards Castlesyke Hill. Additionally Wakefield Council are looking at improvements to the Station Road/ Pontefract Road Junction in Low Ackworth and whilst they acknowledge difficulties in delivering a safer roads scheme to the junction given the existing layout, they have confirmed that there are no plans or intentions to remove the obelisk.



### Dando Way Draining Improvements

Ackworth Parish Council are working in partnership with Wakefield Council to improve the drainage between Bell Lane Car Park and Mill Lane. Investigations are being explored to improve the drainage and hopefully work will be completed later in the year.

### Tree Survey and Nesting/Bat Boxes

A survey has been carried out on all the trees on land that the Parish Council is responsible for and work will begin during the winter to make the trees safe and to keep them healthy. We hope to fix nesting boxes for birds and bats in many of the trees at the same time.



### Community Litter Picks and New Bins

On the very wet weekend of the 28th/29th September over 60 volunteers took part in 2 litter picks organised by the Ackworth Big Spring Clean—All Year Round and supported by Ackworth Parish Council and Wakefield Council Street Scene.



A staggering amount of litter was collected. The village schools will be supporting the litter picks over the next 12 months and working to raise awareness of avoiding dropping litter in first place.

The next litter pick is taking place as this newsletter goes to print on the 2nd and 3rd November. For more updates please follow @AckworthSpringClean on Facebook.

In addition to the litter picks, Ackworth Big Spring Clean—All Year round have also arranged through sponsorship; for 12 new bins (The Dirty Dozen) to be placed around the village. The Parish Council have

sponsored this initiative and are also providing a bin to be located near the Youth Shelter adjacent to Bell Lane Car Park.



In other recycling news—a recycling box has been placed at Bell Lane Community Centre near the Library for anyone who wishes to recycle baby food pouches, baby food snack bags or wrappers in partnership with Ella's Kitchen and Terracycle.

### Brackenhill Allotments Presentation Evening

The Allotment Association hosted its annual presentation evening on the 18th October. Cllr Amanda Cook presented the awards to the winners of the best kept plots: **Corinne Clarkson and Phil Kinsey**, **Darren Darley**, and **Phil and Sue Palmer**. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively for full plots) **Danny Wong**, **Keith Hoyle and Alastair Gairns**, and **Joyce Asquith** (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively for half plots). The most improved newcomer was Keith Hoyle and Alastair Gairns. The Champion Vegetables Cup was awarded to **Terry Walker** for the heaviest marrow and The Best Trio of Vegetables Cup was awarded to **Neil Richmond** for his trio of carrots.



The worthy winners with their trophies



# Christmas in Ackworth

## The Christmas lights switch

Come along on **Friday 29th November** and join in with the community event at **All Saints Church, Wakefield Road.**

The celebrations begin with a Carol Service led by Churches Together starting at **6pm**. The Christmas lights will be switched on at approximately **6:30pm** by this year's **Gala Queen, Millie**.

Refreshments will be served in Church following the switch on.

## Ackworth Parish Council's Santa Day

To be held at Bell Lane Community Centre on **Saturday 7th December 10am—3pm**. This is an



invitation only event for all pre-school and primary school children who live in Ackworth. Free invitations will be distributed via the village primary schools. If your child attends a school outside of Ackworth, or is of pre-school age or hasn't received an invitation through school then please contact the Parish Council office to receive one.

## Townend Avenue Independent Living Scheme—Christmas Fayre



On **Saturday 30th November** the Townend Avenue Independent Living Scheme will be holding a Christmas Fayre **11:30am—4pm** in the centre. There will be stalls,

refreshments and games.

**Christingle Service—In Support of the Children's Society 1st December 3:30pm** at All Saints' Church and **5:30pm** at St Cuthbert's Church. *If anyone would like to volunteer their time to help make the Christingles on Saturday 30th November at 2pm please contact St Cuthbert's.*

The All Saints' Church Christmas Fair will be taking place on Saturday 23rd November 1:00pm—3:30pm there will be seasonal gifts, cards, raffle, tombola, prize every time, cakes, refreshments and much more!

## Ackworth Senior Citizens Christmas Tea

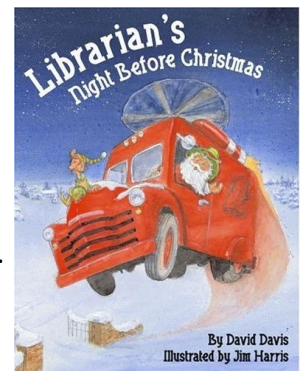
The annual Senior Citizens Christmas Tea will be held at Ackworth School on **Tuesday 10th December from 3:30pm**. This is a free of charge event for Senior Citizens who live in Ackworth. A coach provides transport for those who need it and once everyone arrives celebrations begin with a three-course meal. Entertainment will follow with the coach leaving for the return journey at 7pm. No ticket is required to attend this event, please just turn up on the day.

*Fundraising events have taken place throughout the year to make this event possible. Thanks go to Ackworth Parish Council for their support, Ackworth United Charities and to Ackworth School for providing the venue free of charge, committee members: Pat Garbutt and Dave Johnson and Parish Councillors: Sue Hollyhead and Allan Garbutt for their continued support and hard work in making this such a wonderful afternoon for everyone.*

For further details or help with transport please contact the Parish Council.

## Ackworth Community Library Christmas Events

A Christmas Fair will be held at the Library on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, where there will be a raffle, Father Christmas, children's activities and festive refreshments for a small charge. There will also be a Children's Storytime Christmas Party on **Wednesday 18th December**.



## St Cuthbert's & All Saints' Churches

**ACKWORTH PRAM RACE.**

Organisers of this year's pram race would like to thank all those involved in making the event a success. The presentation night was a huge success with a raffle, an auction, hot & cold food and live music.

An amazing £10,842 was raised this year for charity (75% Prince of Wales Hospice & 25% Motor Neurone Disease Association which gives them a running total of over **£32,000** over 5 years. What a fantastic achievement.

**Lit up or in darkness?**  
**Which would you choose if you were a burglar?**



Crime Prevention

**Residential Burglary**

## Dates For Your Diary

**VE 75 Public Meeting** - Monday 18th November 6pm at the Community Centre, Bell Lane

**Christmas Lights Switch On** - Friday 29th November 6pm service at All Saints Church

**Parish Council Santa Day** - Saturday 7th December at the Community Centre, Bell Lane

**Senior Citizens Christmas Tea** - Tuesday 10th December at Ackworth School

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

**VIA OUR WEBSITE:** – [www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) use the 'Contact Us' section.

**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

Find us on 

Ackworth Parish Council