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Ackworth British Legion Centenary in 2021

The Ackworth Branch will have been in Ackworth for 100 years and was registered with Haig House, the London Headquarters of the British Legion, in December of 1921. The branch was keen to get the benches restored in time for Remembrance and for a Centenary event in December.

The branch is very grateful for the support given by the people of Ackworth and their generosity during the Poppy Appeal. We are very pleased with the refurbished benches at the War Memorial undertaken by Allen Fabrications and Sons Ltd.



Ackworth Pram Race 2021

A staggering £15,022.61 was raised at the event held on 29th August. It was undoubtedly the best attended event so far and is proving to be extremely popular. Huge shout out to the organisers!

All the money raised was in aid of the Prince of Wales Charity.

What a pleasure it was to see the community spirit and folk enjoying the day. Looking forward to next year!



Mouse Trail

Friday 17th September saw the launch of Mouse Adventures on Dando Way, the story is for young children based on some of the Ackworth History.

The trail starts near Bell Lane car park, comprises of 8 storyboards with brass rubbings and finishes near The Angel on Wakefield Road.

For a limited time only children can

grab their free story book, with stickers and a pencil from The Barbers or Scissor Happy on Bell Lane.

Thanks goes to the Elected District Councillors of 2020 Jessica Carrington, Alan Garbutt and Martyn Ward for providing funding monies for community initiatives, local family Helen and Alex Roslyn for providing the



story, Cara Jeal for the illustrations, Ginger Print for the booklets, Made in Ackworth for the cloud design brass rubbings and Ackworth Parish Council for wholeheartedly supporting this story trail and submitting the successful funding application.



The Prince of Wales Memorial

Harry Malkin, renowned artist, Ackworth resident and former Ackworth Parish Councillor specially produced this memorial. "The Prince of Wales Colliery memorial was commissioned by Harworth Estates, the developers of what is now a large housing and parkland complex. They had got in touch with me after seeing the memorial I had made to the miners of Allerton Bywater Colliery that had made such an impression in the locality". In both cases the memorial designs are based on the cage that was used to transfer men and materials hundreds of feet underground. The Prince memorial is made of stone and Coreten steel to be in

keeping with the walls and other street furniture placed around the entrance by the developer. This is a more slender and elegant design than the Allerton Bywater piece though, using profile cut panels of steel to give it a sense of direction and drama. It also conveys the sense the men were "Caged" safe, yet trapped in a subterranean life we fought hard and long to keep.

It was initially commissioned and accepted about five years ago but these things take time to get from the planning stages to actual fruition. It took in total about two months to make and crane into place.

Harry Malkin



Ackworth Community Library, Parish Rooms building on Bell Lane

Website: <https://ackworthcommunitylibrary.org.uk/>

Books and so much more and well worth a visit!

Set up as a registered charity almost ten years ago following the closure of the local authority library, we are now run by fabulous trustees and volunteers from the village. It has developed its services and activities to become a lively community hub. There is a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books including large print and audio books, a well-stocked children's section with beautiful picture books, early readers, well known authors and popular teenage titles.

The library is now returning to pre-covid activities; offering the use of computers, printing / photocopying services. Popular Children's activities during the summer holidays will continue during the year. During your visit why not enjoy our biscuits and refreshments on sale. The



Friday coffee and cake mornings returned on 17th September and are held on 3rd Friday of each month, 9am—12 noon. The library depends entirely on donations and grant funding to remain open and to develop its services and activities for the Ackworth community. The ongoing support we receive from the Parish Council and the people of Ackworth is crucial to our continued existence.



Could you help? Do you have a little spare time? it would be great if more could get involved by either becoming a member of and using the library, donating

good quality books for the shelves or volunteering to work alongside the library assistants in the day to day running of the library. It really is a friendly and supportive place to spend a few hours each week!

We currently have vacancies for new Trustees who will help support the work and growth of this vital village institution. **Interested?** then please contact the library on Tel: 01977 625617 or drop in for a chat during our opening times: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 1pm - 5:30pm, Friday 9am-12 noon

(Under 5's)

Ackworth Community Library

Wednesday afternoons at 2pm

Repeated on Friday mornings at 11am

(except on the 3rd Friday of the month, Library Coffee morning)

Coming soon...

◇ **Christmas activities**

◇ **Ten-year Anniversary Celebration in 2022**





Ackworth Tennis Club has achieved something unique in the history of the Lawn Tennis Association's National awards: Two awards to the same club in the same year.

Alice Robson (Development coach of the year) and Don Saul (Volunteer of the year) earned a unique triple, double of awards: Yorkshire, North of England and National over recent months.

The LTA made these awards owing to the spectacular progress of the Club.

(left to right) Don Saul, Anton Maree (Head of Ackworth School), Alice Robson

Chairman, Don Saul stated: "The last rites were being performed over Ackworth tennis club after six years of fruitless attempts to gain members with closure proposed in January 2018. The revitalising of the club came about through the Club entering a partnership with Ackworth School, the Tim Henman foundation, and LTA Yorkshire tennis who agreed to pool funds to obtain a coach and, as a result, we gained, almost, immediate success: within a few weeks there was a 400% increase in membership, an infinite increase in coaching and the anticipation of a bright future."

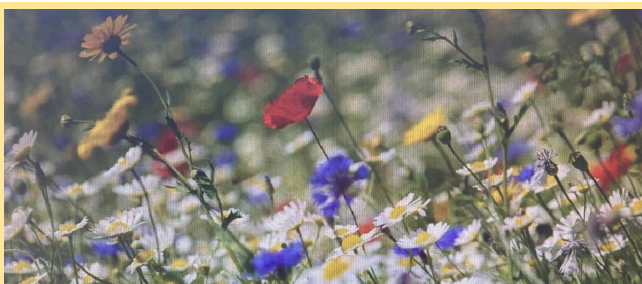
Head coach, Alice Robson said: "Tennis has always been a massive part of my life, being involved has given me so much joy. My motivation to coach and run a programme is to see the impact that tennis has on other people's lives. To be recognised for something I am so passionate about is incredible with the added bonus to have won the award above coaches who have done astonishing work. I am so proud of Ackworth tennis club, and I am very excited to see what the future brings. We have built a fantastic tennis community and I really hope that continues."

The 'grassroots' success is due, mainly, to Alice, facilitated in her role by Don, and supported by a superb committee. The Club has increased membership by over 1100% and coaching has gone from nil to almost 100 members of all ages being coached each week. Alice has provided outreach into state primary schools: over 2000 pupils in 17 primary schools receive 'six-week introduction to tennis courses' free each year.

Don has agreed a prescription scheme with College Lane surgery to allow patients the choice of being coached or playing tennis, instead of medication. This is stalled, currently, owing to Covid 19.

Don said: "All we had to do at Ackworth tennis club was choose and co-operate with partners, agree aims and obtain the funding. Choose a coach for youthful enthusiasm, enormous potential, a marvellous work ethic, and a capacity to make everyone enjoy their tennis, rather than going for the safe option of experience. Allow her the autonomy to set up and run programmes, trust her to do her job without second guessing her. Have a Chairman and a committee determined to facilitate her needs and ambitions with finance, time and support. Then wait for the results. If only it was as easy as this; we all worked very hard to allow Alice to transform the Club within months, not years; and just look at us now: a diverse, inclusive, vibrant club with a future to match."

Now, in October 2021, 14 months after the awards: the Club has a record membership of over 225, two competitive teams in the Wakefield leagues, three coaches, almost a hundred people being coached each week: everything is going well, and they are looking to the future.



Ackworth Parish Council
Wildflower Planting Area

Wild Flower Planting in the Village

The Parish Council are extremely pleased with the results of the Wild Flower planting on the grassed verges around the village this year. The only one that didn't fair well was Carr Bridge.

It is envisaged that this will become an annual event with more locations being sought for 2022. Please feel free to contact us if you have a location for consideration.

Renewed Ackworth Parish boundary signs

New, like for like signs have been fitted on the millstones.
(before and after photos)



The millstones are located at the bottom of Castlesyke Hill, Station Road, Doncaster Road, Barnsley Road and Wakefield Road.



Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding

The Parish Council met on the 20th September to discuss and prioritise the suggestions that members of the community had put forward. A huge thank you to those of you that did! Submitted suggestions can be found on the website www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov under 'Your Council' - 'Planning'

The Parish Council agreed at its meeting in October that the suggestions list will be passed to the Village Amenities Committee to produce a proposal on how to deal with the list.

Contacting the Ackworth Parish Council office

Email: info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01977 611583



Office opening hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon or by appointment.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Christmas Lights – Friday 26th November 6pm

Ackworth Churches Together will hold a carol service at Rhyddings Drive around the Christmas tree at 6pm. Refreshments will be served outside the church following the switch on.

Santa Day - Saturday 11th December 2021 10-3pm. Organising this event is underway. This is a free for all pre school and primary school children that live in Ackworth. 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. Please be advised that regrettably due to Covid-19 restrictions, it will not be the usual grotto! Updates will be posted on Facebook.



Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Tea

Tuesday 14 December, 3.30pm—7pm, Ackworth School. This is a free of charge event for Senior Citizens who live in Ackworth. A three course meal is provided along with entertainment. Transport is available for those that need it.

No need to book, just turn up on the day.