

Acton Bridge Newsletter Feb - Apr 2020

Acton Bridge Community Association Publication

www.actonbridge.org



WI members from Acton Bridge (and Comberbach) enjoy Walking Netball on Wednesday evenings at Weaverham High School



The Parish Rooms held the WI Christmas Lunch for members and partners. Below left. Bob Holt thanks Steve Pardoe for many years of service to the Parish Council.



Village Halls: These special places in our communities are much more than just a building. They are a social hub, an arts venue, a sports club, a meeting place, a craft club, a classroom, a place to eat (and drink!) a playgroup, a rehearsal room, a party room, a library, a bank, a village shop and much much more! And most importantly they are kept alive and powered by wonderful volunteers. From Wonderful Villages Photo competition, see back page.

REGULAR WEEKLY and MONTHLY Groups - Parish Rooms

WEEKLY	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Pre-school	Weaver Vale Art Soc (except for last Monday of the month)	Tae Kwon Do Acton Bridge Art Group (except 1st Mon)
Tuesday	Toddler Group Distaff Singers	Folk Dance Workshop Bridge Club	Scottish Dancing Billiards - Learn How!
Wednesday	Pre-school Jo's Art Group	Pre-school Jo's Art Group	Tae Kwon Do
Thursday	Pre-school	Pre-school	DIY Dancers
Friday	Pre-school Slimming World	Pre-school	
Sat/Sun	Available for hire	Available for hire	Available for hire
Mondays	All day (last Monday of month) evening (1st Monday of month)	Verdin Beaders Parish Council	MONTHLY
Tuesdays	Afternoon (last Tues of month) Evening (2nd Tues of month)	Weaver Vale Art Soc WI meetings	
Fridays	Morning (2nd Fri of month)	WI Flower arranging	

M message from the Editor.....

Welcome to the Feb-April edition of our village newsletter. The 2 years I've been the editor, has made me convinced of the power of local community in our area. We have a thriving and welcoming WI and the ABCA do a wonderful job in Fundraising for village amenities. Although the village has a Facebook page, many residents still like to get the newsletter through the door.

We are pleased to welcome Keira Egerton as the next editor. I'm sure she will inject some new passion into our newsletter and move it forward again. Please help her out as it's a big job for one person - the continuation of the newsletter depends on people keeping her informed. Contact Keira on keiraegerton@gmail.com or phone/text/whatsapp to 07739 941331. The deadline for the next edition is 20th April. Thanks in advance, Sarah and Keira

Parish Council News (from Bob Holt)

Precept At the January meeting the Parish Council discussed and set the precept for the Acton Bridge portion of the Council Tax. After a detailed review it was unanimously decided not to increase the precept from last year's figure.

The total precept amounts to just over £5000 for the year. The main items of expenditure, in addition to the normal annual costs of £3000, are for the purchase, installation and maintenance of the interactive speed signs and an allowance for the decoration of the Parish Rooms.

Planning

At the time of going to press, there is no news on the application for nine park homes at the former Nursery on Station Road.

After a long, long delay, there is however news of applications for the Maypole Inn. Two applications have been submitted to CW&C, one for a large detached house on the car park site and one for conversion and extension of the pub itself. The appeal against refusal by CW&C of the Punch Partners original application for development of the pub and car park appears to have become defunct as the latest applications are by a different owner.

The fate of the pub is a big worry to the majority of residents, particularly to the large number of people who voted to refuse the original application for development in the meeting on 3rd Sept 2018.

Roads and Safety

Further to the Precept decision, the Parish Council are to purchase a further speed indicating unit for installation on Acton Hill. This will then complete the four positions in the Village that were originally planned.

It is pleasing to see that the Police speed detector van is regularly visiting Acton Bridge and monitoring traffic on Station Road. Speed monitoring is also being carried out by Police Officers in other locations. The data obtained from the speed indicator signs is regularly forwarded to the Police and Highways.

PCSO Surgeries

Our PCSO Nichola Devey and her colleague have been in attendance at the Parish Rooms on scheduled dates to meet residents. The new dates for surgeries are: Saturday Feb 22nd and March 21st, 2-3pm.

300 Club - Prize Winners Galore!

Week No	£20 prize		£10 prize	
	No.	Name	No.	Name
13	35	Sarah Hancox, Chapel Ln.	22	Mrs Worrall, Orchard Ave.
14	214	Helen Cartin, Hill Top Rd.	9	A Mainwaring, c/o Tai Kwan Do
15	85	C Gleave, Cliff Road.	22	Mrs Worrall, Orchard Ave.
16	101	S Williams, Cliff Road	68	V & J Oliver, Pear Tree Lane.
17	179	Mr Mashiter, Strawberry Ln.	130	Mr & Mrs Beard, Cliff Rd.
18	5	J Smithies c/o Tai Kwan Do	53	Kim Smith, Chapel Lane
19	156	Mrs Humphries, Station Rd.	30	Mr 7 Mrs Gibbons, Chapel Ln.
20	181	S & M Critchley, Wall Hill Way	204	A & K Thiemicke, Hill Top Road
Amount	No.	Name	Thank you all again for a successful 300 Club in 2019. A total of £1100 was given out in prizes and a similar amount went to ABCA for the up-keep and maintenance of the Parish Rooms. It was great to see prize winners were in all areas of the village. We hope to carry on with the 300 Club this year with you supporting the fundraiser again.	
£200	225	Nigel Scott, Milton Rough.		
£100	68	V & J Oliver, Pear Tree Lane.		
£50	1	Karen Hill, c/o Tai Kwan Do		
£50	89	D Capper, Cliff Road.		
£50	134	Mr & Mrs Harris, Cliff Road.		
£50	53	Kim Smith, Chapel Lane.		

Milton Baptist Church

Sundays	11 am	Serious Question Time – an opportunity to raise questions and discuss together
Tuesdays	1.30 pm	Playford Dancing (17th and 18th century or modern or similar dances at the Parish Room
Wednesdays	2.00 pm	Activity Afternoon: Jigsaws (Historical Norfolk), adult colouring, Table Tennis – one table, table games, craft – bring own work or see what’s available

PROJECTED, NOT YET STARTED

Thursday 5.00 pm Educational help as required up to G.C.S.E.

All enquiries to Margaret Nixon – 01606 851 852



Acton Bridge Preschool and Toddler Group

The children enjoyed our Christmas visit to Tatton Park and Farm as well as our Christmas Party when we were lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas! We did lots of Christmas activities –

glittery crafts, festive baking, decorating the Christmas tree too.

We have made bird feeders for both the preschool garden and for the children to take home and hang in their gardens, in the coming weeks we will be observing the changes in ice cubes in different places both inside and outside, making rain clouds in glasses and baking as well as playing in the garden and going for walks along the lane. In the second half of the Spring term we will be planting the pumpkin seeds we saved from the Halloween lantern.

Preschool has been chosen as a Co-op charity for the year so please choose us as your nominated charity.

Preschool places are available - ring 07999 633011 or email manager@actonbridgepreschool.co.uk to arrange a visit/book places.



Keep the date!

Help raise money for Acton Bridge Pre-School by getting involved in our Scarecrow Trail on **Saturday 16th May 2020**



The Tuesday Toddler group

Toddler group enjoyed their Christmas activities, biscuit decorating, crafts and singing and Christmas Party with a visit from Santa. In the next few weeks there will be a variety of activities on offer. All are welcome during term times 9:45am until 11:45am.



Acton Bridge WI

In November members of the WI watched flowers being arranged in three different styles. One involved placing tulips in a round goldfish bowl with the stems in water at the bottom of the bowl, one hand-tied arrangement and one big classic Christmas arrangement with red and white flowers. All these were raffled and Jane Evans, Lynne Rafferty and Deborah Keyes were the lucky winners.

The Christmas Party in December was attended by about eighty members and guests. They enjoyed a delicious two-course meal cooked by Pamela Cheshire Caterers. The room looked very festive with Christmas decorations and the WI Christmas bunting. There were five hampers in the raffle that were full of good quality groceries kindly donated by WI members. After the meal 'Saltwater' entertained the audience with a variety of foot-tapping songs and tunes from the 1920's to the present day.

At the January meeting members were fascinated by a talk given by Susan Ord who is a Handwriting Analyst and Forensic Document Examiner. It became clear that there is a lot to look at when interpreting handwriting. Her knowledge informs legal decisions regarding contentious documentation. Members were given fun tasks to do which revealed much about handwriting analysis. An interesting evening with an appreciative response.

The speaker in February is Katie Percival who will display and talk about 'Hats and Fascinators.' A 'Musical Journey' is the theme in March from Roger Browne, and in April Robin Hill's talk is called 'A Sting in the Tail.'

In addition to the monthly meetings some members participate in 'Walking Netball' weekly in Weaverham High School's Sports Hall. There are monthly walks, a book club, flower club, adventure club and craft club. A First Response Course took place in January and in February there is a trip to the Walker Gallery, Liverpool, to see an exhibition of fashion items bought by an English lady between 1910 and 1939.



Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Parish Rooms. Visitors are always welcome.

Acton Bridge Tae Kwon Do

Classes Monday & Wednesday
Juniors 6.30-7.30 Adults 7.30-8.30

Classes are £4 per session and the first lesson is free.

Instructor- Mr G Smithies 4th Degree International Instructor

Classes are a great opportunity to meet new people, get fit, build confidence and learn self defence. New members are always welcome.

For more information please call on 01606 619494 or 07754801190

Acton Bridge Tennis Club

Existing members will soon receive renewal documentation to secure access for the new season.

If you are not a member why not consider joining yourself or your children and start a new activity in your village. Beginners or players of all levels are welcome at the club and coaching can be organised.

To find out more about the facilities and membership options please review the web site.

The club, like all village associations, is run voluntarily and the club is currently looking for people to join our committee.

Acton Bridge Fun Day—come and help plan!

ABCA is having a meeting on Thurs 13 Feb, 7.30pm to plan for a Fun Day in early June 2020.

This is for a fun packed day of activities and entertainment on a Saturday for residents and friends of Acton Bridge in the early summer.

Have your say on what's arranged, make suggestions or just come and volunteer your help or time.

Call Selina Rooney, Chair of ABCA for further information or please just come along to the Parish Rooms on 13 Feb, 7.30pm.

Bird (and Nature) Watching

What will the new decade bring? Better weather with a bit of luck and a chance for the mud to dry up!

We had a pleasant surprise on Xmas morning, one nice day at least, we had buff-tailed bumblebees on the winter flowering honeysuckle just outside the conservatory.

All of our berries have now gone, devoured by flocks of redwings and fieldfare. Lately helped by blackbird and strident mistle thrushes picking off the remnants. Our song thrushes are singing already.

Up to twenty blackbirds, male and female, have been squabbling whilst eating the apples put down for them. We're just about coping with feeding our regular visitors: sparrow, goldfinch, greenfinch, all the tits, robin, wood pigeon, collard dove, nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker and a tree creeper in a nearby garden.

This morning we had a face-off between four posturing robins in a square, which seemed to end amicably. If there were any more about they stayed out of sight, probably pairing up.

A pair of stonechats have been spotted near the river on a couple of occasions and a barn owl on Cliff Road. A Tawny owl has been heard close by on Hilltop Road. Plenty of fieldfare, redwing and a scattering of mistle thrush, and all the 'usuals' in the garden including bullfinch and regular goldcrest on Cliff Road.

Now is a good time to clear out your nest boxes and put up new ones, and get ready to spot summer visitors. Keep feeding and putting water out.

Are you lucky enough to have a hedgehog in your garden, please let us know. **Chris Williams**

I saw a parrakeet (pale green plumage) in my garden on New Year's Day about 3pm. It was hanging on the nut feeder on the feeding station. It spent 2-3 mins feeding, then flew into a nearby tree and cleaned its beak on the branches. It stayed there for another minute or so then flew off towards our pond. (Just as I found a camera!) It wasn't unduly frightened of other birds at the feeding station. I know there are parrakeets in some London parks but that was the first (and only) time I have seen one in the wild.

Did anyone else see it I wonder?

**From a resident off Sandfield Lane,
Milton Rough**

Bits and Pieces

'I feel a special mention should go to Bob Heaton for all his voluntary help in the running of the village hall. Without his weekly commitment to maintenance checks and the repairs that he carries out it would cost the village a lot of money. Bob also liaises with outside contractors when any building refurbishment needs to be carried out.' Selina Rooney, Chair of ABCA



The first Christmas Lights switch on ceremony in Acton Bridge was a great success, attracting around 150 people. There was a lovely buzz to the event with a chance to catch up with neighbours and friends. Thanks to Tim Fowler for donating the Tree, and to Jo's cakes for the mince pies.

Acton Bridge Bowling Club

"2019 has been a great year for the Club which culminated in a new club house being installed. The 2020 season promises to deliver some great competitions and bowling. With support from ABCA and the Parish Council, we will have electricity to the club house, offering possibilities for lighting, heating and hot drinks!

Many thanks to the members who have coordinated the works to date. The club house, green and surrounding area are looking good. There are other jobs to do though, and I encourage anyone to come forward and offer their services. Further volunteers are always welcome. We survive and prosper through the hard work and dedication of our members, so if you can spare some time do get in contact." From Steve Sharpe, Chairman's letter to members.

For further information about getting involved with the Bowling Club or becoming a member, see page 12 for contact details.

Something for everyone at Weaverham Library!

Opening times:-

Monday and Friday 9.30 – 1, 2 – 7pm

Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30 - 1, 2 – 5pm

Thursday Closed

Saturday 9.30 – 1pm

01606 274344. Russet Road, CW8 3HY.

Regular events:-

Monday, Knit and Natter 11 - 12.30,

Tuesday, Baby Bounce 10.30am,

Adult colouring club and jigsaw

puzzles 2pm, **Wednesday**, coffee

morning, Digital Storytime 3.30pm

and **Friday**, Rhyme-time 11-

11.30am **Saturday**, Lego Club drop-

in 10.30 – 12.30.

Everyone welcome!

Spring, with its longer and brighter days, is just around the corner. Come and visit us and be inspired. New hobbies, new interests, new garden, new travel plans? Are you trying to get fitter and to eat healthily? Well, it's all here, just waiting for you, so come along and see us.

We have books here for everyone, but if you can't find what you want on our shelves we can obtain it for you. We also have a good selection of recent audio books for hire.

Young children? Join us for **Valentine Crafts** at 3.30pm on Tuesday, 11 February, **Crafts for Mother's Day** at 3.30pm on Friday, 20 March and **Easter Crafts** at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 7 April. **Everyone welcome.**

If you have a few hours to spare, our local housebound service is looking for more volunteers to choose and deliver books to our housebound customers. Please contact the library for further information. 01606 274344

Free 1 to 1 Ancestry sessions on Monday mornings. Drop in or book ahead. By the way, Ancestry is free to use on our public computers at any time.

Free internet access for 1 hour every day on our public computers. Drop in or book a time-slot. Also available: **photocopier (b/w or colour), colour printer and scanner plus free wi-fi.**

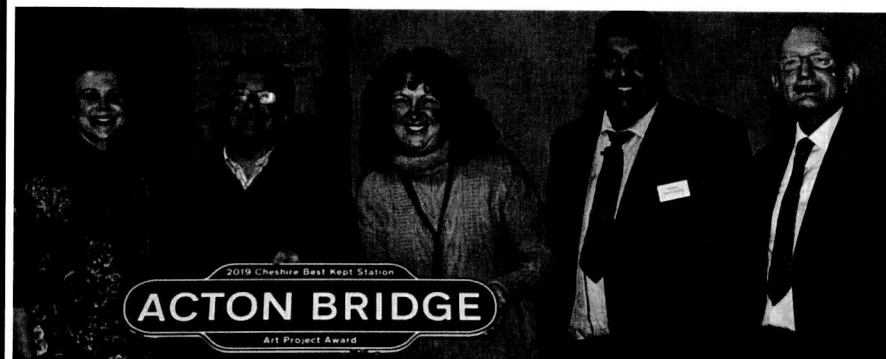
We look forward to seeing you soon - Gill, Carol, Ann and Val.

Friends of the Station News

After being runners-up in 2018, Acton Bridge entered the Best kept Village Competition once again in 2019.

We didn't manage to win, sadly, but the judges noticed all the hard work that 'Friends of Acton Bridge Station' had undertaken to improve the station area in the intervening year, and in particular the fantastic artwork they commissioned from Acton Bridge pre-school and Crowton C E Primary School. These pictures are proudly displayed in the station entrance area and have won the village 'Little Gem' award 2019. Well done to everyone involved and particularly the children for their artistic talents.

The Little Gem award is proudly displayed at the Hazel Pear pub (formerly The Railway Hotel).



Friends of the Station volunteers Hazel and Gordon Bayley receiving the award for Best Kept Station, Art Project (above) and volunteers planting out donated plants at the station (left). Well done to all involved.

Village Contacts

Bob Holt, Chairman	Parish Council	01606 853698
Carole Robinson, Clerk	clerk@actonbridgeparishcouncil.org	N/A
Selina Rooney	Chairman, ABCA	01606 852224
Gill Spanton	Secretary of ABCA	01606 852356
Gill Spanton	Parish Rooms Bookings	01606 852356
Keira Egerton	Newsletter Editor	07739 941331
John Spanton	Acton Bridge Art Group	01606 852356
Ian Dodd	Billiards/Snooker	07518 132554
Chris Williams	Birdwatching	01606 851788
Kath Johnson	Bridge Club	01606 852711
Lynn Fowler	Brownies (Kingsley & Crowton)	01606 852240
Dee Smith/Anna Alexander	Distaff Singers	01477 532982 01925 658447
John Mahan	Flat Green Bowling Club	01606 593886
Margaret Nixon	Folk Dance Workshop	01606 851852
Joanne Moss	Jo's Art Group	01606 851996
Sharon	Pre-School/Toddlers	07999 633011
Brenda Makepeace	Scottish Dancers	01606 551126
Christa Stevens	Slimming World	07775 666206
Gary Smithies	Tae Kwon do	07754 801190
Lynn Fowler	Tennis	01606 852240
Cheryl Hamilton	Verdin Beaders Group	01606 852878
Carol Dooley	Weaver Vale Art Society	01606 783214
Valerie Mitchell	WI Secretary	01606 854144
INCIDENT DESK	LOCAL POLICE	0845 458 0000
NON EMERGENCY		101

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Local produce at affordable prices, skilfully prepared as you want it.
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Homemade celebration cakes made from the finest organic, Fairtrade and home-produced ingredients, freshly made to order to your design. Prices from £35. *Contact Lynn on 01606 852240/07748 401082 or Email celebrationcakesnaturally@aol.co.uk*

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Phone Jan Mundy on 01606 559103 / 07732 867488 or Maria Bate on 07449 010516 or email bizzielizziecs@gmail.com



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Call 01606 852240 or 07963 955426 or email timsgardens@aol.co.uk

Garden Design and Maintenance

David Hodkinson (formerly of Acton Bridge Garden Centre)

For your garden maintenance or landscaping needs

Contact Dave on 01606 624364 or 07791 414919 or email gentlemengardeners@gmail.com

Guest House



Wall Hill Farm Guest House, Acton Lane

Eight luxurious bedrooms, all ensuite. Ideal for your visiting family and friends. Contact Richard and Pam. Phone 01606 852654 or Email info@wallhillfarmguesthouse.co.uk or visit www.wallhillfarmguesthouse.co.uk

Legal



For all your legal requirements speak to one of our friendly team on 01606 74301 or email

reception@mosshaselhurst.co.uk or visit www.mosshaselhurst.co.uk

Marquees



Acton Marquees provides marquees and furniture for all occasions. Contact Phil on 01606 854566 or (mob) 07973 258922 email: info@actonmarquees.co.uk or visit www.actonmarquees.co.uk

Pest Control

Four Seasons Pest Solutions Ltd for domestic and commercial pest control of all pests including birds, rats, mice, wasps and bees. Phone Robert on 01606 620524/07828 149211 or email info@fourseasonpestsolutions.co.uk or see www.fourseasonpestsolutions.co.uk



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Contact enquiries@helenraephoto.co.uk

Podiatry

Weaver Podiatry Holistic Footcare

Katheryn Sheldon BSc (hons) M. Ch.S HCPC registered.

Based in Weaver Business Centre, but happy to do home visits in the Acton Bridge area. Also stocking a range of urea based foot creams. Phone 01606 853711/07870 457482

or email kate@weaverfootcare.co.uk



Pre-school

Acton Bridge Pre-school Free places for 3 and 4 year olds. Join from 2.5 years. Sessions run from 9am-3pm to help with local school runs. Contact 07999 633011

Taxi

Club Class 24-7 Taxis On demand taxis for local journeys, nights out, airport and rail transfers, shopping trips and courier work

Phone 01606 46666/42010/44999

Email info@cheshire-taxi.co.uk

Facebook Club Class 24-7 Cheshire Taxi

Weight Loss

Slimming World Love Life—Love Food—Love Slimming World!

Its where the magic happens! Every Friday in Acton Bridge Parish Rooms.

Email slimmingworldactonbridge@gmail.com

Phone Christa Stevens 07775 666206

Fuel



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For your heating oil requirements, call our hotline for friendly, personal service on 01928 718000 or order online at www.county-oil.co.uk