

Acton Bridge Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Acton Bridge Community Association Publication

www.actonbridge.org



New Way of Life by Chris Metcalfe

The seasons come and the seasons go,
Continuing cycle that we always know,
It was Springtime at the start of this Covid strife,
But we've had to adapt to a new way of life.

'New normal', a phrase never used before,
Masks and gel, please use we implore,
We want it to be like the good old days,
But it will only return if we change our ways.

Follow the arrows on the supermarket floor,
Keep two metres apart, it starts from the door,
Concentrate on your shopping list, women and men,
If you forget anything it's round the course again.

The village starts to come alive once more,
Hazel Pear open now, drinks they will pour,
Community spirit helps support those in need,
The shackles are off, but we aren't yet freed.

300 Club

The arrangements for the ABCA 300 Club are different this year due to Covid 19. The door to door sales normally carried out by our 'willing' volunteers has been suspended. Instead, we have had to introduce, for this year, a scheme where a 300 Club share form and an addressed envelope will be delivered to your house. If you wish to take part, ABCA ask if you would kindly assist by completing the section of your share form containing your name and address and returning it to the promoter in the addressed envelope provided. Please make returns by Saturday 26th September so that the first draw can take place in October.

Prizes will finally be determined when the actual number of shares sold is known. ABCA will distribute 50% of income in prizes, the maximum allowed under the Gambling Act.

ABCA appreciate it asking a lot of you to make the effort to return the share form but the virus has had a significant impact on ABCA income this year and your co-operation in joining the 300 Club will be a big help. ABCA sincerely thank you for your assistance and support.

Acton Bridge Community Association

ABCA is pleased to announce the re-opening of the Parish Rooms on 31st August 2020. Bowls and Tennis activities have been played for some time now, but the opening of our Parish Rooms means that our 15 User groups and the Pre-school can use our facilities, as well as private groups for weekend parties/celebrations.

We have spent the last six weeks applying government and local community guidelines to our particular situation, taking on board the requirements for social distancing, cleaning, limited access, and putting in place measures to keep people safe. Our activities are defined in a COVID-19 Risk Assessment Plan, which has been circulated to our User groups, and is available in the section below, so that private hirers and our local community can see the measures which have been taken. We ask that every user to the Parish rooms observes and respects these.

P arish Council News (from Bob Holt)

Meetings

Meetings of the Parish Council have continued during the period of restrictions imposed to combat the virus. Initially, they were held by telecon, under a 'Pandemic Crisis Management Team' consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk with due pre-consultation with Councillors but are now under full Council using the media of 'Zoom'.

Due to the delays arising from the virus restrictions, the AGM (using Zoom) was not held until July. Details of the AGM, the Chairman's Report, approved accounts and audit are on the Parish Council web site.

Planning Matters

After a long, protracted time-scale, the application for Park Homes on the former Nursery Site, Station Road, has been withdrawn by the site owners. No information has been received on the background to this. A careful eye will be kept for any new / amended plans for the site.

Again, after very long delays the decision on the appeal by Punch Partners against the refusal by CW&C for development of the Maypole Inn and the buildings on the car park has been given. The appeal was rejected. The Inspector placed considerable weight on the CW&C Local Plans (Parts 1 and 2) in making his decision.

The Inspector's decision has had a significant impact on the current applications for development of the Maypole Inn and the car park. Although under new ownership, the application for a large property on the car park has recently been refused by CW&C. The situation regarding the Maypole Inn itself is a little more complicated. As part of the process and procedure in considering development of the Maypole Inn, the owners have to establish if there is demand for use of the building as a Community Facility. A Notice on the subject, from the Agent acting for the owners, is on the Parish Council web site. Please refer to the web site for further information.

Speed Indicating Devices

The speed signs continue to give valuable information and records of vehicles travelling in the Village. The information is particularly valuable to the Police in

applying speed limit enforcement at identified times. The reduction in the volume of traffic during 'lockdown' was very marked, in the order of 60%. Regrettably, there was no reduction in speeding. The volume is now nearly back to pre-lockdown levels and numbers speeding have, unsurprisingly, also risen. The Parish Council will discuss with Highways and Police further measures to eliminate the unacceptable speeds being recorded in our Village.

Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. After due notification to CW&C and publication of the vacancy The Parish Council can co-opt a resident to fill the vacancy. Applications have been requested and will be considered at the Parish Council next meeting.

Changes of Personnel

Mrs Hazel Bayley and husband Gordon are moving from the Village. Hazel joined the Parish Council in 2003 and has been a conscientious and hard working member all that time. She has served on various Committees on behalf of the Council and always willing to take on extra work for the Village. Road and rail transport have been active areas. Never frightened of doing that bit extra, Hazel also worked with the group 'Friends of Acton Bridge Station' to improve the Station and car park.

Parish Council members contributed to a leaving present for Hazel. A presentation was recently made to Hazel on the Parish Room car park, a convenient location due to the restrictions on meetings. At the same time a gift, again from contributions by Parish Council members, was made to Mrs Margaret Holt by Mrs Carole Robinson, the new Clerk. Margaret had been Clerk for over 20 years and had seen many changes introduced to the organisation and management of Parish Councils in that time not to forget the work on significant planning developments that had been applied for in the Village.

Memorial Plaques

The relocation in the Parish Rooms of the memorial plaques to the fallen lads of Acton Bridge is nearing completion. The plaques had previously been mounted in the Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane. The Rev T Simms, formally of the Methodist Chapel, has kindly offered to perform a rededication service and this is scheduled for 11th November 2020 at 3-00pm. Because of the ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19, it is not possible to invite everyone to the service and numbers are limited. We hope that relatives of men named on the plaques can attend together with previous members of the Chapel.

Milton Baptist Church

Margaret Nixon is unable to open the church at the moment. However, the church may open for private prayer on request or for small groups to ask questions or discuss matters of faith with social distancing as required.

Margaret is happy to receive contact from anyone who wishes to be in touch, and can be contacted on **01606 851852** or alternatively, via email at **margaret.nixon1@btinternet.com**.

She is also able to offer assistance with maths, if desired, via her email as a form of catch-up for those who may need it. This includes marking of work returned.

The North West Baptist Association streams a live service at 10:30 am on Sundays which anyone can tune into. The Association reaches from Carlisle to Holyhead and Stalybridge to Wrexham. The live streams are led by Regional Minister, Phil Jump, and can be found at **nwba.org.uk**

Acton Bridge Pre-school and Toddler Group

We are delighted to announce that Preschool will re-open on 7th September (subject to COVID-19 guidance) and we are looking forward to welcoming both returning and new Preschoolers. We are obviously having to make changes to ensure everyone is kept healthy and safe in these unusual and difficult times, but we will ensure that the children's care and learning is not adversely impacted there is still lots of fun to be had!

We have taken the decision to keep our Tuesday Toddler Group closed for the time being, but are constantly monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will open as soon as it is safe to do so, please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Preschool places are available for 2, 3 and 4 year olds please email **manager@actonbridgepreschool.co.uk** to reserve a place or for more information.



Weaver Vale Art Society



Exhibitions have now been put on hold due the current situation regarding COVID-19. Our art group meetings, which are usually held every Monday at the parish rooms from 1pm 'til 5pm, are postponed until until January 2021. If you do wish to join us, contact information is included in the 'village contacts' section at the back of this newsletter.

Logging on to 'Zoom' has become the norm for running committee meetings and main meetings during this period of virtual gatherings.

In July, nearly thirty members joined a zoom meeting to watch resident member, Sue Mallows, demonstrate how to fold a strip of paper to make a concertina greetings card and tie it with a ribbon. Members were also shown how to fold some squares of tissue paper and tie them to make a paper flower. All the materials were carefully prepared by Sue Mallows before the meeting and delivered to every member's house. The evening was a great success.



There has also been a flower arranging demonstration via 'zoom' by Dianne Leigh, a professional florist. Dianne showed members how to make an attractive table arrangement by using flower heads and some greenery floating on a bowl of water. Dianne also demonstrated a large arrangement using some exotic and colourful flowers.

The Book Club have continued to discuss certain recommended books via zoom, such as 'The Yorkshire Shepherdess' by Amanda Owen, 'The Keeper of Lost Things' by Ruth Hogan and 'Three Cups of Tea' by Greg Mortenson and David Relin. The last book was about the remarkable true-life story of how Greg Mortenson, an American, who felt compelled to raise money to build schools for girls in the 1990s, in rural northern Pakistan, where girls received no education.

In the middle of August, a real visit to Arley Hall Gardens was organised, with members travelling in their own cars and keeping a social distance from each other. Fortunately, it stayed fine that afternoon so that everyone could enjoy the magnificent herbaceous border and admire the wide selection of vegetables, flowers and shrubs that were growing.



More recently, a group of six of the Walking Group met for the first time in many months and did a circular walk of 3-4 miles from the Parish Rooms. Although it rained some of the time and was blustery it was refreshing to get out and walk with friends again.

The committee plan to continue meeting virtually for the foreseeable future. The walking group hope to meet again for real walks in groups no more that six.

Bird and Nature Watching

Chris Williams

To try and deter our garden sparrow population (well over 50+) we have largely stopped feeding them until Autumn, but are still filling the peanut feeders. All the young birds, blackbirds and robins, are in their summer moults and hiding. Young blue and great tits help themselves to the peanut feeders when the sparrows leave room but although the coal tits are still about the long tail tits are nowhere to be seen. Earlier in the year a family of baby blue tits was being pestered by a great spotted woodpecker in Wall Hill close.

More recently our great spotted woodpecker was bringing its youngster to be fed peanuts, junior tending to sit and watch. The song thrushes are silent at the moment, probably while their youngsters are being moved on, but the robins are starting to sing again.

The sparrow hawks have been less in evidence for most of the summer but the female caught one of our local wood pigeons and left feathers all over the place which were spread everywhere in the wind. There wasn't much bird left!

We had a single male bullfinch a couple of months ago and a pair of siskin which we hadn't seen for ages. A family of stock doves have been visiting. They are very timid and wary. There have been quite a lot of blackcaps around, and hopefully they have nested successfully and will return next year. The wrens have been around over the summer, and nested in the ivy.

Although earlier in the spring we had not seen any swifts and not many house martins or swallows, they are nesting around the village and have been seen flying around regularly. The numbers do seem to be down on past years though in parts of the village. We also have a pair of bats flying round the house at dusk and have had regular visits from two different hedgehogs. They enjoy the hedgehog food which we put out, and we have often seen them while it is still light, and also early in the morning. We have monitored them overnight with a wild life camera, and spotted the wood mice and voles helping themselves to the food as well.

Acton Bridge Tae Kwon Do

Classes every Monday & Wednesday. we will be holding extra classes so that social distancing can be adhered to. All sessions need to be pre booked in 4 weekly slots on either Monday, Wednesday or both. New Class times are: **5.30-6.30 6.45-7.45 8.00-9.00**

This will give us time to ensure that there will be no cross overs for students & a clean down will be done before & after each session. Please feel free to contact Mr G Smithies 4th Degree International instructor for more information on **01606 619494** or **0775 480 1990**

Village Contacts

Bob Holt, Chairman Carole Robinson, Clerk	Parish Council clerk@actonbrigeparishcouncil.org	01606 853698 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	07739941331
John Spanton	Acton Bridge Art Group	01606 852356
Ian Dodd	Billiards/Snooker	0845 458 0000
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 851196
Sharon Lomax	Pre-School/Toddlers	07999 633011
Graham Soutar	Scottish Dancers	01606 883496
Gary Smithies	Tae Kwon Do	07754 801190
Lynn Fowler	Tennis	01606 852240
Cheryl Hamilton	Verdin Bearders 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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Butchers

Georges Butchers Family run local butcher (Northwich Rd, Weaverham)

Local produce at affordable prices, skilfully prepared as you want it. Free delivery available. Orders may be placed by phone **01606 852104**

Open: Mon-Fri 7am - 5:30pm (Wed 7am - 2:30pm, Sat 7am - 4pm)

Cakes

Celebration Cakes Naturally!

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**

Cleaning

Bizzie Lizzie Cleaning Services

For your cleaning needs and for that friendly, personal and reliable touch.

Phone Jan Mundy on **01606 559103/07732867488** *or Maria Bate on* **07749 010516** *or email* **bizzielizziecs@gmail.com**

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Dog Grooming

Fully qualified professional Dog Grooming with collection service

available. Also local dog walking and animal sitting.

Contact **07766 704136** *or email* **s.puffett@sky.com**

Falconry

Vale Royal Falconry Birds of prey, archery and meerkat experiences.

Gift vouchers are available for special occasions, providing a great day out for friends and families!

Visits by appointment - *Contact Phil and Nanette on* **01606 851873 / 07974 064078** *or visit* **www.valeroyalfalconry.com**

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Local retailer of branded footwear - Crocs, Skechers, Birkenstock, Aigle boots and many more. Ranges for men, women and children. Come and see us.

Contact **01606 853229/782651** for opening hours or visit www.footart.co.uk. Unit 42 Cosgrove Business Park, Anderton.

Garden Design

Tim Fowler Garden Design

Garden makeovers, new patios, stunning borders, water features, pergolas. Full landscaping service to suit budget. RHS gold medal 2009 Tatton, Bronze medal Chelsea 2010.

Call **01606 852240** or **07963 95426** or email timsgardens@aol.co.uk

Garden Design & 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 **07973 258922**. Email: info@actonmarquees.co.uk or visit www.actonmarquees.co.uk

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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 620524/07828149211** or email info@fourseasonpestsolutions.co.uk or see www.fourseasonpestsolutions.co.uk



Photography Portraits

Helen Rae Photography Creative baby, children's, family and pet portrait photographer working on location in your favourite places to create beautiful, natural and heart-warming artwork for your home.

www.helenraephoto.com or [instagram.com/helenraephoto](https://www.instagram.com/helenraephoto)
Contact enquiries@helenraephoto.com

Pizza

The Outback Pizza Company

Authentic hand-stretched wood fired pizza using the finest ingredients from our converted Land Rover Defender.

Available for all occasions. Tel: **07725 266521**

Email: info@theoutbackpizzacompany.co.uk

www.theoutbackpizzacompany.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

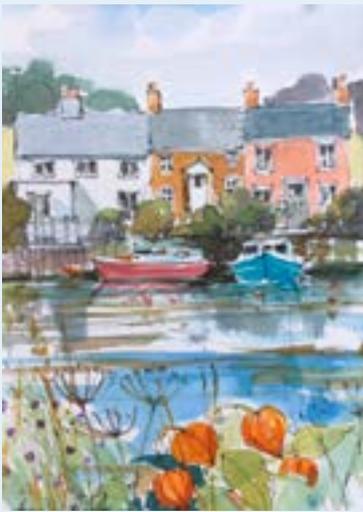
Pre-school

Acton Bridge Pre-school

Free places for 3 and 4 year olds. Join for 2.5 years. Sessions run from 9am-3pm to help with local school runs. Contact **07999 633011** or email manager@actonbridgepreschool.co.uk

In focus

With many Acton Bridge residents having had extra time on their hands over summer, creativity has been at an all-time high. The planters pictured were crafted from waste timber by Tom Cowen.



Ava of Outback Pizza doing some baking over summer.



A photograph taken by Pam Hall of her husband David and dog Penny as they walk through the wild garlic by the river weaver.

A painting inspired by the cottages by the Riverside with a chinese lantern plant growing in the undergrowth, by Annabel Burton.