

# Acton Bridge Winter 2020 Newsletter

Acton Bridge Community Association Publication

[www.actonbridge.org](http://www.actonbridge.org)



Santa and his sleigh touring Acton Bridge in 2019



A socially-distanced ceremony took place for the consecration of the new Gorstage cemetery extension on Wednesday 23rd September and was led by the Bishop of Birkenhead, Keith Sinclair.

## **VOLUNTARY VILLAGE RESPONSE**

The village helpline continues to run throughout winter to provide assistance, advice, or just a general chat for anyone who may want it.

If we can be of any help, please don't hesitate to ring us on 07933 765928, whether you have called before or not!

### **300 CLUB**

Sincere thanks from ABCA to all who took the trouble to complete and return the share forms. The support for the Community Association in these difficult times is much appreciated. In all, 188 forms were returned from all parts of the Village. As stated on the share form, 50% will be distributed in prizes and 50% to ABCA funds.

Because of the number of shares taken up, further prizes can be paid in addition to those indicated on the share form. The prizes are now as follows:

October - one of £75, one of £50 and two at £25. The same again for November. Those for December, in time to spend before Christmas, will be one of £200, two of £100, three of £50 and two at £20.

The draw for the October prizes has been made and the winners are;

£75 Pam Lyons, £50 Nicholas Woodward, £25 Ruth Smith, £25 Helen Doroszkiewicz. Congratulations!

### **Message from the editor**

Welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter! A quick thank you is in order for all those who have managed to contribute this time around. It's been so lovely to see what you've all been up to.

Despite the lack of many of the events that would usually be taking place throughout the remainder of the year, I do hope that there's a little something in this newsletter for everyone. Given the current circumstances, it's difficult to keep on top of the last-minute changes to the schedules of the many groups within Acton Brdige, and so I ask that you check with your group as to whether they are still running as stated.

As usual, please send any contributions that you might like to share in the next newsletter to [keiraegerton@gmail.com](mailto:keiraegerton@gmail.com) or contact me on **07739941331**.

# **P**arish Council News (from Bob Holt)

## **Meetings**

Meetings of the Parish Council continue using the media of 'Zoom' during the restrictions imposed to combat the virus. It was agreed at the last meeting that Bob Holt will continue as Chairman and Trevor Brocklebank as Vice Chairman for the current period until next AGM which it hoped will be in May next year.

## **Planning Matters**

At the time of going to press, there is no further news on the Nursery Site on Station Road (where the application for Park Homes was withdrawn) or the application for alterations and change of use at the Maypole Inn. Some concern was raised recently when activities started at the Nursery Site, but the owner has stated that the work was just clearing up and maintenance of the grounds.

## **Speed Indicating Devices**

The Parish Council continue to discuss further measures to eliminate the unacceptable speeds being recorded in our Village with Highways and Police. The Station Road figures are alarming. A further sign for installation in Acton Lane has been ordered. This will complete the set of four signs in the Village at locations originally agreed with CW&C.

## **Police Community Support Officer**

All houses in the Village recently received a leaflet, published by the Police, of the new arrangements for community policing. The leaflet gave details of the Police Community Base in Weaverham and the officers directly assigned to our area. Unfortunately, the leaflet was printed and distributed just at the time there was a change in personnel. PCSO Nichola Devey, who has done great work for the village, has moved and PCSO Bradley Siddall has taken her place.

An early meeting with PCSO Siddall has shown that he is very keen to get to work in Acton Bridge and to get to know our Village. He is also keen to set-up local surgeries as soon as Parish Room access can be safely established and regulations complied with. Phone contacts are the normal 101 and then 999 for emergencies. Bradley has an email address of [Bradley.Siddall@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Bradley.Siddall@cheshire.pnn.police.uk).

## **Vacancy and Changes of Personnel**

Further to the vacancy caused by the move from the Village of Mrs Hazel Bayley, a second vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council by the resignation of Mr David Edwards. David has recently taken on a very heavy workload and felt unable to continue on the Council. David's knowledge and input to the Parish Council has been greatly appreciated by all Members.

The first vacancy was filled by the co-option of Mr David Charlton of Warrington Road. David attended (by Zoom) his first meeting in October and is a very welcome addition to the Council. The second vacancy is now open to applicants from the Village. After due notification to CW&C and publication of the vacancy the Parish Council has advertised for applicants and can co-opt a resident to fill the vacancy. This is planned to be done at the December meeting. Please refer to the Parish Council website ([actonbridgeparishcouncil.org](http://actonbridgeparishcouncil.org)) under the 'Latest News' for full information.

## **Memorial Plaques**

The relocation in the Parish Rooms of the memorial plaques to the fallen men of Acton Bridge has been completed. As noted in the previous Newsletter, the plaques had previously been mounted in the Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane. The Rev T Simms, formally of the Methodist Chapel, had kindly offered to perform a rededication service and this was scheduled for 11th November 2020. Because of recent restrictions due to the Covid-19, it will not be possible to carry on with the service. A new date will be arranged. We had hoped that relatives of men named on the plaques would attend together with previous members of the Chapel, but sadly everything has had to be delayed.

A feature of the transfer, renovation and installation has been the amount of work done 'free gratis' by local firms. Edmund Nagle, Yoxall Joinery Ltd, Whitby's Memorials and Trigg Engraving Ltd. of Stoke on Trent have all contributed in some way. A big load fell to Bob Heaton in the re-organisation and decoration of the entrance foyer to the Parish Rooms together with installation of the plaques in the foyer. As in so many matters, thank you Bob.

An additional plaque has been mounted near to the plaques from the Chapel. This plaque was purchased by the Parish Council and tells the origin of the Chapel plaques, but goes further to list all the lads of or from the Village who fell in both World Wars.

## **Acton Bridge Community Association**

As scheduled, ABCA held its latest meeting on Thursday the 29th of October, and like the previous meeting, this one was a Zoom based video call.

**At the meeting, it was decided that this year's Christmas tree light switch-on would be streamed on Facebook on the Acton Bridge page. The switch-on will take place at 5pm on Sunday the 29th of November, and we invite households in the village to decorate their gardens/houses with lights and switch on their own at the same time.**

The parish rooms are currently used by Acton Bridge Pre-school 4 days a week and Tae Kwon Do 2 evenings a week. Any further bookings are on hold until the Government relaxes some of the rules that are in place. A few of our regular user groups are hoping to return in January if safe to do so.

## **Milton Baptist Church**

Given the current circumstances, Milton Baptist Church remains closed at present.

The North West Baptist Association continues to stream its weekly live service at 10:30 am on Sundays which anyone can tune into. The Association reaches from Carlisle to Holyhead and Stalybridge to Wrexham. Other members of the Association team are now sharing the leadership alongside Regional Minister Phil Jump, and Jane Henderson is taking quite a large part. The stream can be found at [nwba.org.uk](http://nwba.org.uk).

Margaret Nixon 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](mailto:margaret.nixon1@btinternet.com).

# theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Zoom meetings continue but WI members have also had a real flower arranging session at the Parish Rooms, keeping their distance from each other, before restrictions came in again. Another virtual session took place when members learnt how to create an autumnal wreath of greenery, flower heads and autumn fruits. The results were magnificent.

The Walking Group met up in August and September in small groups to walk locally. The sun even shone for the short walks.

The Book Club members have continued to read recommended books. The latest was 'Once upon a River' by Diane Setterfield, which is a story based on a section of the River Thames set in the late nineteenth century. It is very well written, full of interesting characters, vivid descriptions, and mystery. The group had a lively discussion about the book via zoom.

The speaker for the main meeting in October, which was on line, was Paula Baker from the 'Prickles Rescue Centre' in Suffolk. She told us of the care that they give to injured and orphaned hedgehogs in her region. The charity deals with around 260 hedgehogs each year. A veterinary care unit in Colchester helps with injured animals. It costs about £80 per week to care for a hedgehog and they usually stay between 4-5 weeks before being returned to the wild or a safe garden. In the 1970s there were around 30 million hedgehogs but now the estimate is that there are only about half a million. Many get killed on the roads but many also die during hibernation if they can't find a suitable place to hide among leaves or other garden debris. They are very beneficial to gardeners as they eat all sorts of garden pests such as slugs and snails.

There have been monthly coffee mornings via Zoom where members have had the chance to see each other, have a chat and catch up with friends that they would not normally be able to see. It's not the same as a real live coffee morning, of course, as only one person can be heard talking at any one time.

The meeting in November is the AGM but there is also a talk, “ Behind the Scenes of TV Quiz shows,” by speaker, Faith Powell. This will be via ‘Zoom’ of course.

There will be no Christmas Party this year, but again there will be some sort of activity on ‘zoom’.

*Try the WI- Taster Membership for 6 months for £10.75*

The last few months have highlighted the importance of knowing your local community and supporting each other. As people are appreciating their neighbours and thanking those who have helped them, this is a brilliant time to join the W.I. which has always been a place of friendship and a force for good in the community.

Contact Acton Bridge WI Secretary: Valerie Mitchell on **01606 852542**

## **Delamere 41 Club - Christmas Float**

Sadly, Santa will not be coming round the village to see all the children in advance of Christmas, but will be keeping his Elves and himself safe in 'lockdown' to ensure that all their efforts are put into delivering all the presents to the good boys and girls on Christmas Eve.

**URGENT APPEAL!** We are having to move the Delamere Forest 41 Club Father Christmas float from its current safe home in Acton Bridge to another safe storage facility in the village (or adjacent village). Can anyone please either provide a 'temporary secure home' for it or know of anyone who could store it until it is needed? Please contact the Delamere Forest 41 Club Chairman ASAP - Brian H Smith, Chairman, **01606 853498** or Mob - **07714211628**

If anyone would still like to donate to our two nominated local charities (St Luke's and the Joshua Tree) in lieu of our door collections, they can do remotely and safely by sending any amount by BACS to the Delamere Forest 41 Club marked “Charities”.

Bank: Santander - Sort Code: 09 01 53 - Account number: 48145489



## Acton Bridge Pre-school

We were so happy to welcome both returning and new Preschoolers in September. Since then we have had loads of fun going for walks in the local area to see the farm animals and trains as well as collecting leaves, acorns and twigs to make Autumn collages and taking advantage of splashing in big puddles after the rain! The children have enjoyed lots of different activities including playing outside in the preschool garden and on the indoor climbing frame when the weather was just too bad to play outside, various role play activities including (but not limited to) builder's yard, opticians, shop and laundrette, lots of small world play, numeracy, craft, painting and different sized building blocks to make their own creations and sometimes having tower building competitions comparing whose is tallest.

We have regular baking/food preparation activities and the children made Halloween spider biscuits with very gooey and sticky icing, pizzas for their mid morning snack choosing toppings from a selection, and will be making Christmas star biscuits.

In December we will be doing lots of festive activities including putting up and decorating the Christmas tree, making Christmas decorations from clay, paper chains, wish stars, snowflakes and cards, singing Christmas songs as well as Christmas party days with fun and games during the last week of term.

We will close for the Christmas holiday on Friday 18th December and will return on Monday 4th January 2021.

Our Tuesday Toddler Group will remain closed for the time being but we 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](mailto:manager@actonbridgepreschool.co.uk) to reserve a place or for more information.

We would also like extend a huge thank you to everyone who chose us as their Co-Op Charity of the Year, we have been awarded an amazing total of £2,570.20 for the Preschool. Another way you can help us to raise much needed funds at no cost to yourself is to choose Acton Bridge Preschool as your Amazon Smile Charity and log onto Amazon Smile when you shop online.

Thank you in anticipation of your kind support. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

***Acton Bridge Preschool***



## Weaver Vale Art Society

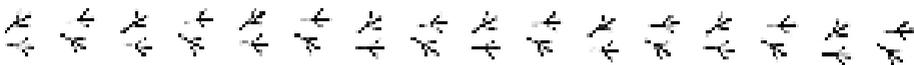


Weaver Vale Art Society hopes to hold a Christmas Art Exhibition at the Parish Rooms from Saturday the 5th to Friday the 10th of December. Entry to the exhibition will be free of charge, and it will run from 10am - 5pm aside from on Wednesday when it will remain open until 8pm. The exhibition will showcase the group's work including original art, prints, cards and crafts.

## Parish Council Presentations

Parish Council Presentations were awarded in August at a socially distanced event on the parish rooms car park. One presentation was presented to Margaret Holt, who has been Acton Bridge Parish Council Clerk for 20 years, and one to Hazel Bayley, who has been a Parish Councillor for 17 years and is moving out of the Village. During the last 20 years, the Parish Council have achieved many things, including overturning the decision to have a huge substation built on Station Road, re-routing of a pipeline that was going to go through the village and the installation of the speed indicator devices to address the speeding issues.





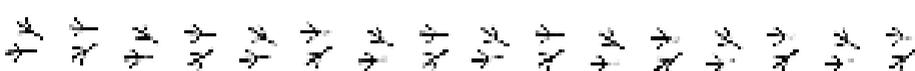
## Bird and Nature Watching

Well, Autumn has arrived, and we've started feeding the birds again. And guess what? the sparrows have returned. It makes you wonder where they disappeared to over summer to keep fed. The same with all the other returns, all the tits, apart from the long tails, robins, blackbirds eating the fallen apples, goldfinches, greenfinches, chaffinches, nuthatch, wrens, a collard dove and a wood pigeon feeding its young. Even the junior stock doves are back. Did any body spot them over the summer? They look like a small wood pigeon but with green flashes on the neck instead of the white patches and they have noticeable black eyes rather than orange. Very nervous and flighty birds.

The great spotted woodpecker family and the sparrow hawks are around, and the fieldfares and redwings are back, feeding on the berries in the garden, and large numbers of starlings are resting on the wires round about. Keep your eyes open for murmurations later on.

A pair of noisy pied wagtail spend a lot of time on our roof picking off flies but don't often come down on the ground. Skeins of Pink footed Geese have been flying south. A chiff chaff visited here over a few days in the early Autumn, and three were seen in a garden nearby.

Tawny owls have been active and noisy in Cliff Road. A Garganey was spotted on the river, a Stonechat near the locks, and a Short Eared Owl quartering the fields by the locks. Ravens are still about near the river too, so plenty to look out for with the winter visitors arriving.



# **Hazel Pear Wood**

Hazel Pear Wood, accessed from the Acton Bridge end of Station Road, is an area of woodland created in 2000; it's owned and overseen by the Woodland Trust and is maintained for the benefit of the community.

Working in conjunction with the Trust, a volunteer group regularly undertakes a range of tasks including curbing the invasive Himalayan Balsam, coppicing the hazel and removing some trees to allow the larger trees to thrive. We now have an additional challenge as the majority of the ash trees are showing signs of ash dieback (a fungal disease affecting 80% of ash trees across the UK) and need to be felled.

The Woodland Trust provide all tools and equipment (hand tools only) and if you are interested in getting involved, all you need to do is wear clothing suitable for the weather and bring your own refreshments. We usually work for 3-4 hours, but any time you can offer would be appreciated.

After some time setting up all the necessary procedures & equipment for Covid-safe working parties we were hoping to arrange a date in the next few weeks, but the second national lockdown has meant that we have had to delay this until the law allows.

If you are interested in getting involved, you can still take action as you will need to register with the Woodland Trust first. Please contact Cliff Mallows on [cliffmallows@gmail.com](mailto:cliffmallows@gmail.com) to receive further details on how to register and receive updates on future volunteer days.

# **Gorstage Cemetery**

A major project has come to fruition at the Gorstage cemetery (which is managed by Acton Bridge, Weaverham and Cuddington Parish Councils). The Gorstage Cemetery Committee recognised the need for additional burial space and has been working for some time to provide an extension. This has finally been achieved and the Consecration of the extension took place on Wednesday 23rd September in a socially distanced ceremony led by the Bishop of Birkenhead, Keith Sinclair.



# 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 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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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**

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Contact [enquiries@helenraephoto.com](mailto:enquiries@helenraephoto.com)

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Podiatry

## Weaver Podiatry Holistic Footcare



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Phone **01606 853711/07870 457482** or email

[kate@weaverfootcare.co.uk](mailto:kate@weaverfootcare.co.uk)

P re-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**

Printed Presents

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**Instagram: Pendiprints** or

**Facebook: Sarah Pendleton-Sharp.**

Call, text or message on **07888 733389**



Roofing

## Horne Roofing Cheshire

Acton Bridge based, we have experience on all types of roofs. Testimonials can be provided on jobs we have completed in the village and beyond.

For quotes and roofing advice, contact Geoff on **07765 373941** or email [grhorne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grhorne@hotmail.co.uk)

Volunteers at Hazel Pear Wood working in conjunction with the Woodland Trust to maintain the woods and ensure that larger trees are able to thrive.



Children from Acton Bridge Pre-school playing with blocks and in puddles.



Village Life by Chris Metcalfe

*Look at the blue sky, clouds, and sun,  
Breathe in cold air, breathe out, have fun,  
Walk down the lanes and the frosty grass,  
Lose yourself here, any bad times will pass.*

*The trees are bare, but the shoots come alive,  
Soil breaks down so underneath it will thrive,  
It's still dark early but lighter each day,  
The seasons bring hope, it's always the way,*

*Positive thoughts will help you along,  
Take a cue from the animals, survive, and stay strong,  
Help others in need and ask for it too,  
Village life in abundance, steadfast and true.*



Autumnal wreaths handcrafted by members of the Women's Institute using flower heads and autumn fruits.

