

# Atworth Updates

Your Parish Newsletter



Dear Atworth Parish,

Welcome to our December edition of Atworth Updates. We like to say a big 'Thank You' once again for your feedback to our parish newsletter, to those that make contributions and to the wonderful volunteers who help deliver within this fantastic parish of ours.

It's hard to believe that Christmas and the New Year are now just around the corner and what a year it has been for the parish. In this edition, we'll be taking time to reflect and remember. There has been an outpouring of appreciation and love for the poppy cascade organised by members of Atworth Women's Institute and which has had contributions from Churchfields School, Atworth Youth Centre and Atworth Brownies. The poppy cascade has been a wonderful tribute to those whose names are given on the Roll of Honour on our Clock Tower.

This year, Atworth Parish Council gave the highest honour that it can bestow, Freedom of the Parish, to Kirsty and Nathan Cortilla, in recognition of all the work that they had done for our community. Whilst we say goodbye to Kirsty and Nathan, your Parish Council also extends a very warm welcome to Nicola and Tony, the new owners of the White Hart.

We'd love to hear from you. If you want to get in touch with your Parish Council on issues that matter to you, or you'd like to contribute a recipe to a future newsletter edition, or would like to share a family story about our parish—get in touch! You can either email us at [news@atworth.org](mailto:news@atworth.org) or drop a note in our letterbox.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year—the Atworth Updates Editorial Team

*\*The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect nor represent the view of Atworth Parish Council*

## Atworth Remembers



Issue 3—December 2023

[news@atworth.org](mailto:news@atworth.org)

# Traffic and Highways Update



After a long wait, we now have a 20 mph speed limit on Bradford Road. The new speed limit should make Bradford Road safer for residents and especially for children attending Churchfields School. The signage for the 20 mph limit has now been completed but there is still a need to refresh the SLOW signs and the yellow zig-zag markings outside the school and your Parish Council will be chasing this up over the coming weeks.

We continue to work on your behalf in relation to traffic problems affecting our parish, particularly in Atworth village - and have now set up a Traffic Working Group to focus on these issues and make recommendations to full Council as appropriate. Councillor Penny Telling, who has been closely associated with these issues for some time, is chairing the new group and she is joined by Councillors Sarah Davies and David Hough.

The Working Group will be looking at long-term possibilities for traffic calming along the Bath Road and also trying to find a solution to the parking problems in Bradford Road, especially at times when parents

are delivering or collecting children from school. There is no obvious solution to this, but we will be campaigning for parents to park safely and responsibly, avoiding residents' driveways and private roads and taking care not to cause an obstruction for other road users.



## Speed Indicator Devices (SID)

Speed Indicator Devices are still regarded as useful reminders of the 30 mph limit along the A365 and, at the September meeting, the Parish Council approved the purchase of a second device to work with our existing unit. The new device will have a data retrieval capability which will enable us to collect data and link into the Wiltshire Police Commissioner's speed enforcement team. The new unit has now arrived and, within the next few weeks, we hope to get it all assembled and installed. Thanks are due to Jason and George Roberts who have volunteered their time to get the existing device operating at either end of the village.

## Road Safety Awareness Poster Competition

To mark Road Safety week in November, we launched our first ever Road Safety Awareness Poster competition. The winning entry from Florence in Atworth village, can be seen on page 11 and will be displayed around the village. Many congratulations to Florence for the great winning design!



# Your Parish Council—working for our community: Autumn/Winter 2023

## Your Parish Council



Many thanks to David Webb for taking this picture of Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk during our September 2023 meeting.

*Back row: Cllr David Hough, Martin Kyte (Parish Clerk), Cllr Philip Addis  
Front row: Cllr Penny Telling, Cllr Shauna Green, Cllr Emma Roberts (Chair), Cllr Sarah Davies*

## Clearing of Jubilee Copse

To mark the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a number of seedling trees were planted on ground opposite the Bear Garage. Unfortunately, the land where



the trees are planted subsequently became overgrown. Thanks to efforts by Councillor Philip Addis, we extend our grateful thanks to Rose Ledbury and Sir James Fuller for clearing the copse, so that the Jubilee trees are now visible. Your Parish Council will

be taking further works in the near future to plant additional trees and to install a marker to designate the Jubilee Community Copse.

## New Flagpole and planters

Earlier this year, you may have noticed that the previous flagpole by the Independent Church was removed and shortly afterwards a brand new flagpole was installed. To mark Remembrance Sunday, a poppy flag was raised. We've also updated the planters surrounding the Clock Tower with new planting, including rosemary for remembrance.



## Road Safety Awareness Competition

This year, we launched a new competition for children 16 and under to design a road

safety awareness poster that can be displayed short-term in the village.

Here is the winning design and our congratulations to the winner, Florence - look out for the poster which will go on display soon.



## New Parish Council Logo



A huge thank you to all Parishioners who voted on which option we should adopt as our new logo. Option B was the clear winner and will now be our new logo. If the design looks familiar, it's because it's the same design that was developed for this newsletter! The designer is Josie Green, who is 16 years old and lives in the village - she came up with the outline image of our iconic Clock Tower and now it is our new logo - fantastic work Josie!



# Atworth History Group

## Boundary Walk 2023

On Saturday 26th August, as part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations, several members of Atworth History Group and a few other Atworth residents walked the Atworth Parish Boundary. Against all expectations, the weather was very kind to us and we had a wonderful day walking our local countryside.



We would like to thank the Neston Estate and all the other landowners whose fields we walked for allowing us access to follow the boundary line. Also, we'd like to thank Rachel Whiteman, who met us in her car at several points along the way to provide much needed refreshments, and Jim Gooding for preparing the route and leading us around it.



The Atworth History Group meets in Atworth Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the first Monday of the month (unless it's a Bank Holiday in which case it's the second), so the first meeting next year will be on Monday 8th January, when Jonathan Holt will give a talk about Wiltshire Follies. Visitors are very welcome at the modest cost of £5 for the evening or you may wish to join for an annual subscription of £15. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served at the end of the meetings. For further information about our Group please contact David Hough on 01225 793647.



## A new home for Atworth Village Bier

In September, you may have seen Atworth Village Bier (that is a cart designed to carry a coffin) being moved from the Village Hall to its new home of Atworth Museum, following its recent expansion. Presented to Atworth Parish Council in 1912, the bier could be hired for a charge of one shilling (or 5p) and was first used in 1913. It remained in use for 95 years and was last used in 2008 at Reg Townsend's funeral



The top photo shows Hilary and David Hough moving the bier from the Village Hall and in the bottom photo, at its new home next to David Webb.

Atworth Museum is now closed for the winter, but we hope that you will come and see the bier at the museum. It will be open again on Sunday 31st March 2024 from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Everyone is welcome—just look out for the board at the museum entrance (to the right of The Old Forge).

# Freedom of the Parish 2023

## Kirsty and Nathan Cortilla

At the end of August, our parish said a sad goodbye to our friends, Kirsty and Nathan Cortilla, former owners of the White Hart. Whilst living in the parish, the couple made a huge contribution to Atworth village, supporting local charities, hosting the Artisan Market, organising the wonderful music festival that is AtFest and being one of the central hubs of the village.

During the first Lockdown, when the hospitality industry was so badly affected, Kirsty and Nathan became an integral lifeline for the village supplying and delivering food and milk supplies around the village, at a time when people could not leave their homes. During their tenure at the White Hart, they raised just over £67,000 for local charities - an incredible achievement.

To mark their departure from the parish and to show our appreciation for all that they have done for this amazing parish, your Parish Council granted Kirsty and Nathan the Freedom of the Parish - this is the highest honour that any Council can bestow.

Although the honour carries no privileges, recipients of the honour are able to use the title of Freeman or Free-woman. Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, allows a relevant authority (including a town or parish council) to admit to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority to:

- A) Persons of distinction, and
- B) Persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent service to that place or area.

Due to their significant fundraising, charitable works and contribution to the fabric of Atworth parish for so many years, your Parish Council deemed Kirsty and Nathan to fall into the second category and so the decision was made to bestow them with the Freedom of the Parish.

**Thank you Kirsty and Nathan, from all your friends in Atworth parish, for all that you have done and congratulations on being awarded Freedom of the Parish!**





# Atworth Remembers

## Poppy cascade— lest we forget

If you have been along the A365 in Atworth village recently, you would have seen the spectacular poppy cascade that was organised by members of Atworth's Womens Institute.

There has been a huge outpouring of love and appreciation for the cascade, which is a poignant tribute to those whose names are given on the Clock Tower's Roll of Honour, to mark Remembrance Sunday.

The cascade is made up of about 900 poppies, with contributions from Churchfields School,

Atworth Youth Centre and Atworth Brownies. To complement the cascade, the planters surrounding the Clock Tower have been planted with rosemary for remembrance.

## Trench Cake recipe

Tracey (Atworth Parish Council's Communications and Project Officer) has been looking for a suitable recipe for this edition, on a theme of Remembrance. During WWI, the Ministry of Food issued a recipe for a cake that was made without eggs, that families could send to their loved ones serving in the trenches, hence the cake became known as Trench cake. Here is the recipe below if you'd like to give it a try. As Tracey is gluten and lactose intolerant, she's added on some bits to the recipe to make it suitable for people with gluten and/or lactose intolerances. To bake the cake do so in a moderate oven e.g. 180°C/350°F/Gas mark 4.

*If you have a family recipe you like to share in future newsletter editions do get in touch with us via [news@atworth.org](mailto:news@atworth.org) — we'd love to hear from you!*

## Recipe

8 oz Plain flour (or gluten free plain flour + 1 teaspoon of xanthan gum)  
4 oz Margarine (or dairy free spread)  
1 teaspoon Vinegar  
1/4 pint of Milk (or lactose free milk/dairy free alternative)  
3 oz Brown Sugar  
3 oz Currants  
2 teaspoons Cocoa powder  
1/2 teaspoon Baking Soda  
Nutmeg  
Ground ginger  
Grated lemon rind (the recipe doesn't actually say how much nutmeg, ground ginger or lemon rind to add so just add to your preference!).

## Method

1. Grease a small cake tin (15cm/7in).
2. Rub the margarine/spread into the flour. Add the other dry ingredients and mix well.
3. Dissolve the baking soda in the vinegar and milk mixture
4. Beat mixture well and pour into tin.
5. Bake in a moderate oven for about two hours (this is what the actual recipe says but modern interpretations of the recipe say it might be done in one hour!).



# Wartime memories of Atworth

Whilst editing this edition of the newsletter, we've been looking for stories marking wartime memories of Atworth to coincide with this issue's theme of remembrance. We're extremely grateful to Councillor David Hough for sharing with us, a compilation of memories from wartime evacuees that was put together by Atworth History Group entitled "Atworth - A People's History". We are therefore sharing a few extracts from this document with you.

Dr Dorit Bader Whiteman, who was evacuated as a child from London to Atworth in September 1939:

*"After the big city, Atworth looked charming and picturesque, almost like a movie setting. Small attached houses, little gardens fronting them, a clock tower and at the end of the road a church. I entered Mrs Clark's home with wonder and a little trepidation. It was very different from the ones in Vienna and London I have lived in. The rooms were quite small and there were not many of them....."*

*Suddenly the streets of Atworth were filled with strange children - running, investigating, playing, interrupting the pulse of the village life. But everyone was motivated by the desire to pull together for the war effort. The adults felt it with passionate patriotism and even the children sense that they should not complain under the circumstances."*

Richard Cheeseman wrote:

*"The fond relationship I have with the village of Atworth began in those dark days of the war in 1940, and in relating my story it must of necessity begin with the arrival of my father, a sergeant in the Pioneer Corps, who was posted to nearby Corsham following the fall of France. The word that the New Inn at Atworth was a hospitable public house well spoken of soon spread to the camp, Mr father, together, with several other companions soon discovered the congenial atmosphere of The New Inn, as a place of where one came to enjoy the benefits of comradeship....."....."*

*The Institute (now known as the Village Hall) still serves as a community centre for the village. I well remember the excitement it generated for us as children on the occasions when lantern slides were shown there. (The lantern referred to was brought to the village by the schoolmaster, Henry Inkpen. He gave lantern shows to the pupils and to the villagers. Not too far away, where there is now a vendor of antiques, stood a small radio repair shop, essential in the days when the wireless required regular servicing with batteries and accumulators."*

Mrs Kathleen Cooper wrote of her stay in Atworth during WWII:

*"At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, I and my children, Valerie and John, were on holiday at Poplar Farm, Atworth, near Bath, owned by my cousin, Bessie and Sidney Rawlings. Valerie was 6 years old and John 18 months....Guy, my husband, was unable to be with us. It had been pre-arranged with my cousins that in the event of war the children and I would go to the farm for the duration as there was little doubt that the cities would be bombed. Therefore, when this happened, I stayed on at the farm"....."*

*While I lead a comparatively comfortable life (I was spoilt by kindness) it was not so for my cousins as apart from caring for the extended family, they were up at 5.30 each morning to attend to the farm work. Cows had to be milked, chicken and ducks fed, eggs collected and the seasonal harvesting of hay, wheat etc. from the fields surrounding the house. Wild rabbits were shot, mushrooms picked....which all helped to eke out the rations. There were weekly markets at Trowbridge (Tuesday) and Devizes (Thursday) to be attended."*

We've really enjoyed sharing these little snippets with you. If you would like to see the memoirs, they are available at Atworth Museum.

# Response from Atworth Parish Council to Whistle Mead Solar Farm application



As you will be aware from our second edition, Wiltshire Council are currently considering a planning application in relation to Whistle Mead Solar Farm, reference: PL/2023/01914 and that your Parish Council has **objected** to the application.

We submitted our comments to Wiltshire Council on 13th September 2023 under comment no. WC-23-09-279558. Your Parish Council's objection focused on six areas as summarised below:



i) *Connection to grid* - Atworth Parish Council considers that the applicant cannot be treated as a full application if key features of the scheme are being left as reserve matters.

ii) *Unjustifiable Cumulative Impact* - We consider that the local community is taking a heavy burden in respect of the amount of solar farms in the immediate vicinity and their impact on our local countryside, public views and overall community impact.

(iii) *Wiltshire Council Solar Strategy* - Wiltshire Council has a duty to provide a clear steer on their current solar strategy. The application will mean that Wiltshire generously exceeds its declared target for the county, so need, deliverability and impact have to be properly interrogated.

(iv) *Highways Access* - The Highways information appears to be incomplete in terms of both impacts during and post construction, and silence on the impacts of any grid or local connection.

(v) *Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)* - The true LVIA impacts of the scheme have not been addressed. The land slopes upwards away from the lane north/north/eastwards. It will therefore be impossible to screen from key viewpoints along the footpaths and lanes on raised ground near Little Chalfield and between Broughton Gifford and Atworth, where it will be clearly visible, sometimes with both Studley Farm and Norrington Common solar energy plants visible from the same point.

(vi) *Community Benefit* - The Studley Farm solar scheme developers have made commitments to community benefits in the form of grants for local organisations/projects, and this is a standard approach from solar developers in recognition of the negative impacts of these developments can have on the local population and is an attempt to help ameliorate those impacts by contributing meaningfully to the community. There have been no such overtures from the Whistle Mead team and no discussion of any specific community benefits, or invitation to apply for grants, has so far been forthcoming.

A traffic plan has subsequently been submitted by the applicant and it would appear that access for the estimated 841 delivery journeys is suggested to be via Wildcross in South Wraxall, then right at Ganbrook. Vehicles would leave the site via Bradford Leigh. It also mentions that the 40 or so workers travelling to and from the site each day may also try and access through Atworth and Bradford Lane.

The full submitted response from Atworth Parish Council can be found on Wiltshire Council's website via the aforementioned planning application number. The decision deadline date is currently anticipated to be February 2024.



# Ferns at The Botanic Nursery

In our woodland garden here at Botanic Nursery we enjoy growing a few interesting ferns from the hundreds available. Their beautiful structure is variable and fascinating and never ceases to bring enjoyment.

Did you know Ferns have been around for over 350 million years! That's amazing—no wonder we have such a huge diversity of them available to the gardener today. In natural habitats they offer foraging safety for many small woodland animals and ground feeding birds that scamper around trying to evade their predators. Easily replicated in your garden with just a few ferns and maybe some woody stumps.



The way that some ferns grow is also a fascination to watch, you may have seen the huge unfurling fronds of the Tree Fern *Dicksonia*.

In Māori culture the unfurling frond of the fern is used frequently in many forms of art, in carvings and tattoos. It has lots of symbolism, new life, growth, strength and peace. Next time you look at some of your ferns in their habitat or hopefully your garden, maybe you will recognise those characteristics in the plants habitat. They have the ability to create a peaceful and naturalistic area, are hardy and thrive despite the sometimes-unusual conditions they seem to be growing in. The new unfurling growth has an interesting name it's called **Fiddleheads**. Next spring take a look and see the resemblance to a violin head. Fern leaves are usually referred to as fronds, they are composed of what is called a **leafy blade**, that is the side "leaf" that grows from the **petiole** - the central vein of the frond. The leafy blades are replicated on both sides of the petiole which itself is variable, some go straight up the length of the frond, others divide again creating more intricate leaf blades.

Most Ferns on the whole prefer to grow in a shady soil, one that is not completely wet and boggy, although humus rich and a bit damp is good. Many will grow in full sun, especially where there is a level of moisture in the ground beneath. Growing to varying heights and frond sizes, they are a plant that requires little care, older browning foliage can be cut off when it offends, however take note if your fern constantly has lots of brown fronds then it most likely is in too dry a soil, so may need moving.

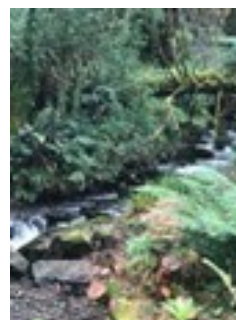
**Evergreen Ferns** will grow without any intervention except the cutting back of those old browning fronds at the base. This can be done in late spring and it allows the new foliage to come through **Herbaceous Ferns** start to die back in late summer, their fronds can be cut back as you have time, or leave them to that autumn tidy time and cut them off down to a few centimetres

Spring is a good time to feed the fern, something like blood, fish and bone or a good general purpose feed. This helps especially if your soil is a bit undernourished and adding a mulch to the top of the soil in spring as well can be beneficial. Dividing ferns can be undertaken in autumn or spring. Take care not to make the division too small so they can establish.

Hope you enjoyed reading about Ferns, we have a lovely selection at the nursery. Have a look on our web site [www.botanicnursery.co.uk](http://www.botanicnursery.co.uk)

We are currently closed until 1<sup>st</sup> March but the plants need care and we are working throughout the winter months so you are welcome to pop in, may check first by email to save you a wasted journey.

Our Christmas Wreath Making Classes start from 6<sup>th</sup> December, various dates and times. Please look at our web site for more details or our Facebook page.



**Note from the Editorial Team:** Huge thanks to Mary and Terry at The Botanic Nursery for sharing this article with us. How amazing are ferns! Tracey is looking at her violin now for the resemblance to ferns fiddleheads!

# What's happening?

## **Atworth Village Hall**

Our charming, century-old Village Hall is located in the centre of Atworth. Light and airy, wheelchair accessible, and with a modern, fully equipped kitchen. Over the past few years, it has changed constantly to meet the needs of users. The hall has been totally refurbished being repainted in neutral colours. Both the kitchen and toilets have been replaced and updated. All lights have been replaced with modern LED tubes and bulbs. We have also installed a projector and large screen which can be used to display information and for presentations. The old football changing room has been totally refurbished and is now an attractive meeting room. Both the main hall and the meeting room can be hired for many different activities. Wi-Fi is available throughout the whole building and in the main hall there is a multi-media system with microphones. For those who haven't yet visited, we also have The Recreation Ground and Playground situated immediately behind our Village Hall.

### **Main Hall**

This would be the perfect choice for children's parties, family gatherings as well as your regular place for interest groups and/or business meetings. If you were holding a full meeting in the main hall, then the meeting room would be ideal for your break-away syndicate meeting.

### **Meeting room**

Suitable for small groups and businesses for 10-12 people. It would be ideal for interviewing, holding meetings, training courses or for small interest group meetings. Should it be required, it could also be used as an office – as an alternative to working from home, which has become the "new norm" for many.

Please contact us for further details to hire the main hall or meeting room and we will be happy very to help. Please contact the Booking Officer on mobile number 07399 350774 and leave a message or email: [Atworthvillage@yahoo.com](mailto:Atworthvillage@yahoo.com) or telephone the Chairman on 07960 285279 or email: [Richard.Clark2@talktalk.net](mailto:Richard.Clark2@talktalk.net)

### **Chocolate Bingo**

We held a family fun Chocolate Bingo event on Friday evening 6th October which was an enormous success. Every available seat was taken and both parents and children seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Thanks to all who attended for supporting this event.

Also, our grateful thanks to the local businesses who provided some of the "chocolate" prizes, The Trustees of The Village Hall are most grateful for their continued support.



### **Picnic Table**

For those of you that use the recreation ground, you may have noticed that the old picnic table was beginning to fall apart. We have now installed two new picnic tables, one underneath the tree so there is shade up to approx. 18:00 in the evening, the other has been located next to the current one. In both tables there is a hole to locate your own umbrella (if you wish to bring one) to gain further shade. However, if you use your own umbrella, it is used at your risk. The old picnic table has also been partially refurbished.

### **Chaired with Sound**

Our next event on Saturday 9th December is Christmas Carols with the Choir. For the second year running, we are delighted to have the excellent local choir "Chaired for Sound" singing for us.

Doors will open at 13:45 with the choir starting to sing at



14:30 (the event finishing around 16:30).

Refreshments will be available throughout. There will be Arts and Crafts for children

plus a Raffle.

Look out for our posters throughout the village and on our Face Book page for full details, including advanced ticket purchase.



# What's happening?

## Atworth Village Hall cont'd/

### **Damage to the Recreation Ground Wall**

In the Autumn, unfortunately, one of the dry-stone walls on The Recreation Ground was damaged and it has taken time and money to repair the hole this damage caused. We would ask all users to please take care and avoid the temptation of sitting on or climbing over the wall. We ask this, not only to avoid injury to yourselves, but also to prevent any further damage to the wall. THANK YOU.

The Recreation Ground and Play Area is a wonderful community resource and we are very proud as Trustees to continually maintain it for the enjoyment and mental wellbeing of all users.



### RoSPA

(The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents)

In October, the Atworth Village Hall Trustees instructed RoSPA to carry out its annual inspection of The Recreation Ground, The Playground and all play equipment and surfaces. We were delighted that the inspection confirmed that the high standards previously seen were being maintained. There is light wear and tear work to be done on 3 pieces of equipment but, rest assured this will be carried out at the earliest opportunity when weather permits. In addition, our weekly and monthly robust monitoring will ensure that we continually identify any ongoing issues which we will address.

### Atworth Parish Council Postbox



Do you want to get in contact with the Parish Council but don't have access to email or the internet? Our postbox can be found on the wall of Atworth Village Hall's meeting room (at the back of the Village Hall and as approached from Post Office Lane).

Thank you to Atworth Village Hall for allowing us to place our postbox here.



### Atworth WI

Thank you for all the wonderful responses to the Poppy Cascade. It was a challenge and great fun creating it and we have Dawn Rossi to thank for masterminding it. We were delighted to have the contributions and support of the school, youth club, Brownies and the Parish Council.

Recently we have had two new members join. There was an excellent talk from the charity, Mercy Ships, and another was a true story of the considerable wartime achievements of Francis Burroughes' mother.

November's meeting focused on debating the merits of 4 proposed resolutions. Nationally, each member has a vote on which should be presented for debate and possible adoption at the National AGM. Did you know past resolutions have included issues such as smoking bans, seat belt laws and protecting honey bees? This year all the proposals look very worthy of support: Dental Health Matters looks at the need to address the shortage of dentists; Impacts of Poor Housing Conditions calls for improvements in housing standards and supply; Say 'no' to Gambling Advertising challenges the existing rules; Improve Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice system looks at issues in the justice system for women and the need to deliver on the 2018 female offender strategy. Which would you support the most? The December meeting by contrast is very light hearted and is all about seasonal fun and food.

The WI is open to all women over 18 and is a lot more than "Jam and Jerusalem" and old ladies! There are so many misconceptions, why not look up the WI on the internet and find out more, or go to a meeting.

# What's happening?

## Atworth Youth Centre

**Welcome  
to Atworth  
Youth  
Centre**



Atworth 4Youth Club have gladly welcomed a flurry of new members to our Juniors sessions on Thursdays.

The Juniors, alongside our Seniors members have participated in several arts and crafts activities, from needlework, pumpkin carving, Halloween glass lanterns and firework paintings.

Our cooking activities with our youth are very popular, preparing and cooking pizzas, pasta dishes and cakes, while helping the youth improve their kitchen culinary skills.

Sport activities are a favourite with the youth with them participating in inside facilities such table tennis, ice hockey and the football tables. Also the youth made good use of our outside area during the warmer weather playing of football, badminton, and tennis.

Our 4Youth Assistant Youth Workers have been working with our youth, engaging them in subjects of Black History month, Remembrance Sunday, and Anti Bullying Week.

The young people have been contributing to making felt poppies for the WI Clock tower display and were encouraged to take part in the Speed Awareness Poster competition.

**Atworth  
Youth Club**

### **Mondays**

**No Limits Youth Club**  
**£2 Entry**  
**Ages 13 - 25 With SEN**  
**18:30 - 21:00**

### **Tuesdays**

**Seniors Youth Club**  
**£2 Entry**  
**Years 8+**  
**18:30 - 21:00**

### **Thursdays**

**Juniors Youth Club**  
**£2 Entry**  
**Years 5, 6 & 7**  
**18:30 - 21:00**

### **What can I get involved in?**

We offer a range of indoor and outdoor activities including: Games, Pool & Football Tables, Cooking and Baking, Arts and Crafts, Badminton, Table Tennis, Basketball, Projects and Events, Competitions and much much more.



Upcoming events for December at 4Youth, we will be hosting a Christmas Disco for both Seniors and Juniors before our shut down over the Christmas period. Details will be advertised on our social media pages shortly. We also have a Christmas wreath workshop at the Atworth Centre for people to book online via our

website  
4youth.org.uk  
on Sunday  
3<sup>rd</sup> December  
10am-2pm.



## **Save the date! Spring 2024 - A History of Atworth talk returns by popular demand!**

We are so excited to learn that the popular talk by Atworth History Group that was so well attended in the summer is being re-run next spring! Look out for further details on dates and times coming in due course.

## **ATWORTH HISTORY GROUP 1973 - 2023**

**Presents an Illustrated Talk  
to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**A  
HISTORY OF  
ATWORTH  
FROM  
THE ROMANS  
TO THE  
THIRD MILLENNIUM**



# What's happening?

## Atworth Independent Church (the Chapel by the Clock)

As a Church without a Minister / Pastor we are reliant on visiting speakers. During the four weeks of May we welcomed young men from Widcombe Baptist Church, Bath. Not only did one speak, but another led the service and they also brought a pianist / organist. (So our resident lady could enjoy the services from the "pew"). We were pleased to be able to encourage them and it was good for these lovely young Christians to share in a service with a smaller church.

The June Coffee Stop saw a good number of attendees (room for more!), enjoying tea, coffee and cake before listening to friends from Corsham who played a medley of hymns and choruses on piano and violin. Putting the violin aside, David then relayed the heart rending story of MND sufferer Rob Burrows, ex Rugby League player, and how his friend Kevin Sinfield wheeled him in the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon and carried him the last few yards over the finishing line. David reminded us of the friend, Jesus Christ, who is willing to carry us and much, much more if we would only respond to Him. Sunday Services and Coffee Stops continue as advertised. We continue to meet each Sunday at 10.30 a.m and have a monthly Coffee Stop on the 2nd Friday of each month at 10.00 am. Particular highlights over the past months have been our Harvest Thanksgiving services and Anniversary celebrations.

### **CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES - Atworth Independent Church**

Friday 8th December - Christmas Coffee Stop - 10.00 a.m.  
Enjoy tea/coffee/mince pies etc. and choose your favourite Carol.

Sunday 17th December - Morning service 10.30 a.m.  
Carol service - 3.00 p.m. Followed by light refreshments.  
Sunday 24th December - Morning service - 10.30 a.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY** - Service at 10.00 a.m. - to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

A warm welcome awaits you to any of our meetings.  
Rodney Price - Secretary - Atworth Independent Church - The Chapel by the Clock.

## St Michael and All Angels

Hello from Reverend Jane Palmer to you all - St Michael's Church is looking forward to seeing you over the festive period, and we have lots going on to help you celebrate Christmas and also remember the ones you love but are no longer able to see at this special time of year. We will have a Christmas tree in

Church for remembering those we miss at Christmas, just come in from 10th December and choose a tag and write the name of your loved one and hang it on the tree. Lets cover it with love!

As well as our usual services our special Christmas Services in St Michaels are as follows:

10th December 4pm Advent Choral Evensong  
22nd December 7.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols  
Christmas Eve 4pm Family Crib Service - come and help build our nativity crib and sing lots of carols  
Christmas Eve 11pm - Midnight Mass

In our sister Church Christ Church Shaw we also have the following Christmas Services:

17th December 7pm Carols by Candlelight  
Christmas Eve 10am Christingle and Crib service for all the family  
Christmas Day 10am Family Service with Holy Communion

A special Christmas Event is being held at Spindles in Whitley on Friday 23rd December 3-4pm - Scratch Nativity. Come and help us make a live Nativity scene in Spindles cafe, come in costume or use ours - we need angels, shepherds, kings, Mary and Joseph and of course lots of animals.



## Feast and Celebration - Church Tower

Our Church Tower has stood watch over our village for nearly 600 years. Built in 1451, it has survived demolition of the accompanying church (the current church building dates from 1831) and looks better than we will at 600++! It is home to what is rumoured to be

Wiltshire's oldest bell, cast in 1341 and approaching its 700th birthday! Sadly the Tower is in need of some TLC: mind you who wouldn't at that age! A hole in the roof necessitates rebuilding. The cost, including contingencies is likely to be £30,000, of which we are seeking to raise £20,000. We have made applications to grant giving bodies and are now seeking to raise a contribution directly from the village. We are keen to ensure that the Tower can continue its watch over the village for a further 600 years. How can you help?

We will be holding a medieval banquet in the church on **Saturday 2nd March 2024**. Please put the date in your diaries for an evening of food, music, poetry and fun styled on the Feast of Fools, a traditional means of celebrating 12th night and having a bunch of fun! Tickets will go on sale in **December at £40 per person**. You can also contribute directly through our adopt a tile scheme. For a contribution of £10 or more, you can have your name memorialised in the Tower!

# Join Us – Become a Parish Councillor!

## COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

At our October meeting, we formally welcomed our newest Councillor, Cllr Heather Chaplin. At present, we still have **two** vacant seats remaining.

- Are you interested in local current affairs?
- Do you wish to serve your community?
- Could you provide a voice for residents?



If you feel like you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community and make a significant contribution to the area in which you live, then this is the position for you!

There are 11 council meetings per year with very occasional ad-hoc meetings.

Applications are invited by anyone registered on the Electoral Register who is and has been living in the parish for the whole of the period of the last 12 months.

If you would like more information or to express your interest, please submit a letter of application giving brief reasons why you should be considered for the vacancy, to the Parish Clerk—[Clerk@atworth.org](mailto:Clerk@atworth.org).

## Need to raise an issue with us?

Your councillors want to represent you and your family's needs. We want to hear from you and want your suggestions, ideas and feedback. We realise that we sometimes rely on Social media and email to communicate with the parish but that this isn't the preferred method of communication for everyone. If you would like to tell us your views, ideas or give feedback to the Parish Council, please write us a note on the slip below, cut it off and put it in the **Grey Postbox** at the back of the Village Hall

This is the house between the zebra crossing and the village hall. You can remain anonymous if you would prefer, or leave us some contact details to get back to you, if you would like to. All communication will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

**Please do get in touch—we'd love to hear from you.**



Dear Atworth Parish Council,

Detach and place in the postbox at the back of the Village Hall





# Parish Steward

**The Parish Steward Scheme is run by Wiltshire Council and offered to town and parish councils.** The parish steward is a skilled highway trained operative in a branded vehicle, who undertakes discretionary local highway priority works to town and parish councils on a schedule. Essentially, if the job is capable of one which can be undertaken by one person and a vehicle, without the need for mechanical assistance, then the job would be in scope.

The kinds of work that can be undertake by the Parish Steward include work such as verge maintenance e.g. grass cutting, flower beds, and general areas in the parish. General service improvements such as sweeping, litter collection, weed control and removal, removal of weeds encroaching of footways and maintenance of non-statutory level assets, for example: white lining, kerbs, signs, street names, gulley emptying etc.

Our Parish Clerk puts together a list of maintenance works for the parish steward when they are in our parish so if you think there is a job that could be done by the parish steward (as long as it is in their remit), please let us know via the contact form below:

Please write us a note on the slip below, cut it off and put it in the **Grey Postbox** at the back of the Village Hall. You can remain anonymous if you would prefer, or leave us some contact details to get back to you, if you would like to. All communication will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

**Please do get in touch**



Dear Atworth Parish Council - jobs for Parish Steward

Detach and place in the postbox at the back of the Village Hall







# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*and Happy New Year*

*From everyone at Atworth Parish Council*