

Parish Council Office, Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, WF7 7JH 01977 611583  
Website [www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) E-mail [info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Normal Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am to Noon



## Message from the Chairman – Cllr Sarah Balfour

Now that Autumn is here, we at the Parish Council are making plans for works that will make the village more attractive in the Spring. We are supporting Ackworth Juniors in their project to plant bulbs on some of Ackworth's green spaces – Please see article below.

In addition to the paths that have been upgraded at the Carr Bridge play area, we are looking at some further landscaping and tree planting around the playing fields.

Following considerable work on the boundary hedge at Low Ackworth and the necessary felling of trees that were assessed to be potentially dangerous, a field maple and a cherry tree have been planted in the small area of trees by the playground. We look forward to seeing these in flower next Spring.

In November and December we will have our customary pre-Christmas events - the Christmas lights switch-on, Ackworth Parish Council Santa day, and the Senior Citizens Christmas tea. Details of all these events are in this newsletter. Come along and enjoy yourself.



## British Legion Honours Seven Ackworth Civilian Fatalities in 1940

On 1st September 1940 three ARP wardens and three home guards, accompanied by an eleven year old boy, went to a crater left by a bomb which had been dropped in the hedgerow next to Went Lane. Unfortunately a second, delayed action, bomb exploded causing the deaths of all seven. In addition, two other men were seriously injured in the explosion. The site of the explosion is marked by a stone memorial engraved with the names of all those who lost their lives. On the 1st September this year, members of the Ackworth and Pontefract Branch, Royal British Legion, gathered at the spot to mark the 77th anniversary of the incident and to honour those killed. The Last Post was sounded and the Branch Standard was dipped in salute. The ceremony was concluded by the laying of a wreath of poppies on the commemorative stone. Councillor Allan Garbutt represented the Parish Council.



## Christmas Lights Switch On – Friday 24 November

Come along and join in with the community event at **All Saints Church, Wakefield Road**. The celebrations begin with a Carol Service led by Churches Together begins at **6pm**. The Christmas lights will be switched on by Ackworth Gala Queen Megan Mackay at approximately 6.30pm. Refreshments will be served in Church following the switch on.



## Brackenhill Allotments – Pumpkin Weigh-In

The annual pumpkin weigh-in took place on Friday 13 October at Brackenhill Allotments. Hosted by Brackenhill Allotment Committee, children who'd planted seeds back in April were invited to bring in their harvested pumpkins for a weigh in. It was a lovely afternoon with children bringing pumpkins of all different shapes, colours and sizes. The heaviest ones weighing in at 16kgs The Parish Council would like to thank the Allotment Association Committee for their continued support with this free event for local children.



The Parish Council has responsibility for the allotments on Wakefield Road. All plots are currently occupied however if you live in Ackworth and would like to be added to our waiting list please contact the Parish Council office.

All tenants are eligible to join Brackenhill Allotment Association. The Association run a shop on site and organise events throughout the year including summer BBQ, pie and pea supper and the annual presentation evening.

## Ackworth Parish Council's Santa Day

To be held on **Saturday 9 December** at the Parish Council Community Centre on Bell Lane from 10am – 3pm. This is an invitation only event for all pre-school and primary school children who live in Ackworth. Free invites will be distributed via the village primary schools.

If your child attends school outside the village or is of pre-school age, please contact the office to receive a free invitation. 01977 611583. Details of the event can be found on our website. Please come along and support this community event, all children receive a gift bag from Santa.



## Ackworth Senior Citizens Christmas Tea

Ackworth Senior Citizens Committee has just announced that this year's event will be held on **Tuesday 12 December** from 3.30pm. This is a free of charge event for all senior citizens who live in Ackworth and will be in the same format as previous years; generally catering for 200 guests. A coach provides transport for those who need it and once everyone arrives celebrations begin with a three-course meal. Entertainment follows and the coach leaves on its return journey at 7pm.

Special fundraising events have taken place throughout the year to make this event possible. Thanks go to Ackworth Parish Council for their support, and also to Ackworth School for providing the venue free of charge, committee members: Parish Councillors Allan Garbutt, Mrs Pat Garbutt, Mrs Sue Hollyhead and Dave Johnson for their continued support and hard work in making this such a wonderful afternoon for everyone. For further details or help with transport to the event please contact the Parish Council office on 01977 611583.

## Helping To Make Ackworth Bloom – Ackworth Juniors FC



On Saturday 14 October some local children from Ackworth Juniors FC took advantage of the beautiful weather and carried out some bulb planting in the village. The football club successfully applied for Neighbourhood Improvement Funding from Wakefield Council to carry out the planting, under the careful guidance of Paul Hamby, First Impressions Nursery.

Ackworth Juniors FC chairman Paul Wilkinson said: "The bulb planting has been a great way to get our younger players involved and show we are more than just a football club, we're very proud to be putting something back into the village and community. It's been great fun, educational and rewarding for everyone involved - I just can't wait for spring!"

Thank you to First Impressions Nursery, Wakefield Council and Ackworth Parish Council for their assistance in making the project happen.



Ackworth Juniors are currently in the process of applying for further funding which will go towards improvements to the youth shelter next to the Multi-Use-Games-Area adjacent to Bell Lane car park.

### Ackworth Junior Runners

Ackworth Road Runners formed a Junior Section on the 1st June this year. This section encompasses children in the age groups 4-14 years. Training is carried out by UKA qualified Coaches. The group, by kind permission of Nostell Priory Estates, meet there every Monday at 6pm for an hour in the spring and summer.

In Autumn and Winter same day and time at Ackworth School Sports Hall. All children are welcome and more information can be found at [www.ackworthroadrunnersandac.co.uk/Juniors](http://www.ackworthroadrunnersandac.co.uk/Juniors)



### Ackworth Pram Race

Organisers of this year's pram race would like to thank all those involved in making the event a success. Over the last three years the race has helped to raise just over £18,000 for The Prince of Wales Hospice. 18 prams took part this year, followed by a junior race at Cricket Club.



Pictures courtesy of Sarah Almond

Find us on 

[www.facebook.com/Ackworth-Parish-Council](http://www.facebook.com/Ackworth-Parish-Council)

## Memorial Testing at Ackworth Cemetery

The memorial safety testing programme is now complete. All memorials that have failed inspection had either been laid down or supported by a wooden stake and identified by a notice. The memorial rectification works will be funded by Ackworth Parish Council and be carried out over two phases. For further details visit [www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) under Archived News.

## Road Safety Group Joins Community Speedwatch Scheme

Ackworth Parish Council's Road Safety Group is working with West Yorkshire Police and taking part in its Community Speedwatch Scheme. This is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together, with the support of the police, to monitor the speed of vehicles using detection devices. The scheme aims to:-

- Improve the quality of life for local residents
- Reduce collisions and the severity of injuries on local roads
- Make drivers aware of their speeds, the dangers of speeding & encourage them to slow down



Working with support and direction from Wakefield Police, fully trained community volunteers will utilise the Speed Indication Device (you may have heard it referred to as 'Smiley SID') - positioned in identified and risk assessed locations. Speedwatch is not an enforcement tool but aims to reduce speeds and improve road safety.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM - MEET YOUR PCSO

PCSO Lorraine Kavanagh holds regular informal drop-in sessions around the village. Come and discuss issues in connection with Policing matters. These are not formal meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. Details of these sessions can be found on noticeboards around the village and on the Parish Council website.



## Contacting the Parish Council

If you have any comments, compliments or criticisms to make about the work of the Parish Council, then please contact us in one of the following ways:

**BY EMAIL:** [clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) or [info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**VIA OUR WEBSITE:** – [www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) use the 'Contact Us' section.

**BY TELEPHONE:** 01977 611583

**BY POST / IN PERSON:** Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, West Yorkshire, WF7 7JH. The office is situated at the front of the building. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon or by appointment.

Alternatively you are welcome to attend a Parish Council meeting – dates are published on the website and in the notice board at the front of the Community Centre. We have a 'public' session from 7:15 pm for approximately 15 mins.

We endeavour to respond within 7 working days to correspondence received in the above ways. Sue Templeman, Clerk