



*A Christian Family who Care,  
Share and Learn Together.*

*Astbury St. Mary's Church of England Primary School  
Newsletter ~ 30th January 2015*



Dear Parents/Guardians,

A very good afternoon to you all from snowy Astbury. The children have had a great time this morning playing up on the school field. Many thanks for providing children with the appropriate clothing so they could make the most of the morning. As it is predicted to remain cold over the coming week, can we ask that your children have appropriate outdoor clothes so that they do not have to stay indoors during playtimes and lunchtimes? Many thanks in anticipation of you getting them prepared.

On the subject of playtimes, our child led Eco team have noticed that we are beginning to have a problem with litter and give out awards to children each week who see litter and place it in the appropriate bins. Once this was investigated further, we found out that children are bringing in crisps, sweets and chocolate bars to have at playtime. We are a healthy school and therefore do not want children to be eating these foods at playtime. Please can you ensure that your child has a healthy snack at playtimes, with the added bonus that we will solve our litter problem? Again, thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

And finally... I have attached the latest minutes from the May Day committee for you to read. As you can see, there is so much to do and they could really do with more support from our parent community. If you feel you could get involved, please contact the committee. It is our major fundraiser for our children so your help will be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Mark O'Leary

### **May Queen and Retinue 2015**

The draw for the May Queen and Retinue has now taken place.

Congratulations to Lily Lou Shipton who will be our May Queen for the next year.

Queen 2015 – Lily Lou

Attendants – Freya and Megan

Crown Bearer –Mark

Sword Bearer – Joshua

Sceptre Bearer – Toby

Page to new Queen – Daniel H /Daniel C

Page to retiring Queen – Tom/Bailey

Chief Prize Giving Page – Oliver

Extra Page – Finn

### **Let's Move Street Dance Kids**

A new Street Dance class has started at Glebe Farm Astbury. The class costs £3.00 per session and is on Fridays 4.00-4.30pm. For kids, this class offers half an hour of guaranteed fun, laughter and dancing. For Parents this class offers your children a great way to incorporate some healthy exercise into your child's day whilst introducing them to basic strength and co-ordinated skills. For more information please contact Helena Chadwick, a trained professional dancer who has spent years performing around the world and has experience of teaching children of all ages. Helena can be contacted on 07825 380620 or by e mail [helenachadwick2712@gmail.com](mailto:helenachadwick2712@gmail.com)

### **Dane Valley Scout Group**

Join us for a taster visit any Thursday

Beavers – 5pm to 6.15pm

Cubs – 6.30pm to 8.00pm

We welcome boys and girls aged 6 to 11

If you are interested in your child joining Cubs or Beavers please contact us at 01260 280237 during the times shown below, or visit our web site

[www.danevalleyscoutgroup.org.uk](http://www.danevalleyscoutgroup.org.uk)

Come and join the fun!!

6—8 years

Every Thursday 5pm—6:15pm

8—11 years

Every Thursday 6:30pm—8pm

Dane Valley Scout Group

Rope Walk

Off Mill Street

Congleton

CW12 1HN

## New Folk Ensemble

New Young Folk Ensemble!  
Lead by Clare 'Fluff' Smith  
First session Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 2pm – 3.30pm  
Maxwell Davies Centre, Sandbach School, Wheelock Road, Sandbach.  
In association with Love Music Trust and Folkus

Folk Fiddler extraordinaire and multi-instrumentalist **Clare 'Fluff' Smith** is inviting young instrumentalists who have an interest in Folk Music and learning by ear to come and play together on a monthly basis. She would like a balanced ensemble of Fiddles, Whistles, Flutes, Recorders, Guitars, Ukles, Basses, Cellos and if anyone wants to bring along an Accordion, Melodeon, Concertina, Banjo or Mandolin then so much the better!

The group will learn entirely by ear – **a great way to develop aural skills for Grade Exams!** – and will learn local melodies alongside well known traditional tunes from these Isles and around the world. The Group and the music will be best suited to non-transposing instruments, but confident transposers on Bb and Eb instruments would be welcome (not recommended for beginners).

Anyone with a year or so experience on their instrument can take part in the sessions as simple parts are available and more experienced players will be stretched!

Clare 'Fluff' Smith leads the **Folk Wider Opportunities Programme** for the **Love Music Trust** and directs the **Folk Group** at Stapeley Broad Lane School who are the current title holders of the **Best Primary Ensemble** in Cheshire East and who performed at the Bridgewater Hall last July. She also runs a **Folk Club at Brine Leas Academy** and is a regular workshop provider for **Folkus** who support Folk Arts in the North West. As a performer Fluff is often seen playing Fiddle and Viola for Singer-Songwriter **Thea Gilmore**, was a member of the **Incredible String Band** and currently plays with Chester based **Full House** and alongside BBC Radio 2 Folk Show presenter **Mark Radcliffe** in the pirate-folk-rock band **Galleon Blast**.

Please email Fluff on [Fluffkinder@gmail.com](mailto:Fluffkinder@gmail.com) for more information and to register for the first session!

## Sponsorship

I will be running the Wilmslow half marathon on 22nd March 2015 and would really be grateful for any sponsorship. My friends mum has unfortunately just been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease therefore I will be running to raise money for this charity. I will leave a sponsorship form in class Jonah.

Many thanks Alison Bacon (mum of Reuben Bacon, class Jonah)

## Congleton Children's Centre Timetable

### Congleton & Holmes Chapel Children's Centre

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Health Visitor Development Checks</b> 9.30 am to 12 noon</p> <p>Appointments are arranged via your Health Visitor for development checks.</p> <p><i>To book an appointment please call the Health Visitors on 01260 294807</i></p>	<p><b>Baby Weigh Clinic</b> 9.30 am to 11.30am Held at Ruby's Fund Sensory Centre Meridian House, Roe Street, Congleton</p> <p>Family Support Workers on hand for advice and support with opportunity for non-mobile babies to play and learn.</p>	<p><b>Citizens Advice Bureau Appointments</b> Fortnightly 9am and 10am Call or text Robbie King on 07549 593022 for an appointment For advice on money, employment, housing and benefits</p>	<p><b>Antenatal &amp; Postnatal Clinic</b> 9am to 4.20pm Moreton Team Please call the Children's Centre to make an appointment.</p>	<p><b>Stay &amp; Play at Congleton &amp; Holmes Chapel Children's Centre</b> 9.30 am to 11.00 am</p> <p>Sessions include messy play, art &amp; craft, , imaginative play, singing, stories and much more!</p> <p>Healthy snack provided for the children.</p>
<p><b>Baby Massage Course</b> 10 am - 11.30 am Learn to massage your baby at home to help relieve colic and relax baby and parent.</p> <p><i>For further details please telephone the Children's Centre</i></p>	<p><b>Cherubs</b> 11.30 am - to 12.30pm Breastfeeding Support Group. for breastfeeding mums in a friendly and relaxed environment. Infant feeding co-ordinator available for information and support.</p>	<p><b>Smile Group</b> 10.00am - 12.00 noon Support for mums experiencing postnatal depression to help them living with their emotions.</p>	<p><b>Stepping Stones Community Play Session</b> 9.00am - 10.30am Drop in play session for pre-school children and their parents/carers.. £1.50 per child and 20p for every additional. Child. <i>Term time only</i></p>	<p><b>You Make the Difference</b> 12.45pm to 2.45pm 0—3 years A course designed to support your child's speech and language development.</p> <p><i>For further details please telephone the Children's Centre</i></p>
<p><b>Antenatal &amp; Postnatal Clinic</b> 2.20 pm - 4.20pm Moreton Team Please call the Children's Centre to make an appointment.</p>	<p><b>Parent Craft Antenatal Classes</b> 2.00 pm - 4.00pm For more information please contact Christie McKechnie on 07960 577562</p>	<p><b>Antenatal &amp; Postnatal Clinic</b> 9am to 4.20pm Moreton Team Please call the Children's Centre to make an appointment.</p>	<p><b>Babies Together</b> 11.00 am - 12.30pm 5 week class for first time parents Health Visitors and Children's Centre staff. Please call the Centre to book a place.</p>	<p><b>Antenatal &amp; Postnatal Clinic</b> 2.20 pm - 4.20pm Moreton Team Please call the Children's Centre to make an appointment.</p>
	<p><b>Antenatal &amp; Postnatal Clinic</b> 2.20 pm - 4.20pm Moreton Team Please call the Children's Centre to make an appointment.</p>	<p><b>Young Parents Group</b> 1pm to 3pm Bromley Farm Wellbeing Hub <b>Parnell Square</b> Are you a parent under 21 years old? This is a great opportunity to meet new friends, get advice, information and support while having fun. Please ring Rosie or Kylie on 01260 371061</p>	<p><b>A member of the SPEECH &amp; LANGUAGE Team will be at the Centre on the following Fridays</b> 9.30 am –10.30am 13th February 13th March</p>	<p><b>The Sensory Room is located within the Children's Centre. It is available for use from 9 am until 5pm (4.30 pm on a Friday). Please call the Centre to book.</b></p> <p><b>Midwifery clinics are held at our centre throughout the week. The Moreton Team's main base is Macclesfield Hospital. For all urgent enquiries, test results etc please call 01625 661145.</b></p>



# MINUTES OF THE ASTBURY MAY DAY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015 AT 7:30PM

Present: Duncan Amies  
 Dan Blythe  
 Kathryn Egerton- Brooks  
 Richard Goodier  
 Louise Goodier  
 Donna Graham  
 Angela Griffiths  
 Andrea Hoffman  
 Rob Lomas  
 Kath Moore  
 Steph Morris

ITEM	
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Crystal Holford, Louise Jones, Melanie Lawton
<b>COMMITTEE ROLES</b>	<b>KM</b> asked if anyone wanted to take on the role of Chair. No-one wished to take on the commitment. <b>DG</b> asked if <b>KM</b> would be willing to continue as Chair in the absence of any volunteers. <b>KM</b> kindly agreed to Chair the Committee as long as it was very much a team effort and all members had delegated tasks. <b>DG</b> agreed to be Vice Chair and <b>SM</b> and <b>KEB</b> will carry out admin duties as listed in the Minutes below. <b>DG</b> will Minute formal meetings.
<b>JOBS LIST</b>	<p><b>KM</b> went through the jobs list she had prepared for the meeting as follows:-</p> <p><u>December</u>          To run the raffle we must make sure we are registered with Cheshire East council to run small lotteries. Complete form and send £20 to Cheshire East in December. A form must be completed and sent back to them after May Day to confirm how many tickets were printed and sold etc.</p> <p><i>Action KM will complete this form.</i></p> <p><u>January</u>          Set a date for the May Queen draw. <i>Date set for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm.</i></p> <p>School to send out letter to year 5 girl's parents asking them if they want to be in the May Queen draw. Girls don't have to go in the draw at all and can opt out. Some girls just prefer the chance to be an attendant and that is fine. <i>Action Mrs Cameron</i></p> <p>Also invite year 6 boys and parents to the draw. Draw out the boys names also for Crown Bearer, Sword Bearer, and Sceptre Bearer, Pages to retiring and new queen. <i>Action Mrs Cameron</i></p> <p>At present we assist the Queen by giving them a maximum of £150 and the attendants £75 each towards their outfits. Before we hand over any money though we need to have a copy of receipts or invoices.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the questions usually asked by the queen.</p> <p>The queen mum is responsible for organising the queen's dress, flowers, shoes, little maid's hair ribbons, sash ribbons and flowers. The attendant's mums are responsible for organising their daughter's dresses, shoes and flowers.</p> <p>We have 3 red new queen cloaks, 3 blue retiring queen cloaks and a range of tiaras to be used as crowns in the school. These have all been made or purchased in the last few years and are in the school loft.</p> <p>Book the marquee – we have used Jacksons for years. Email - <a href="mailto:enquiries@jacksonsmarquees.co.uk">enquiries@jacksonsmarquees.co.uk</a>. The cost is approximately £1000. The Committee agreed to use Jacksons again as the price is very competitive.</p> <p><i>Action – Kath Moore to email Jacksons and arrange the Marquee.</i></p> <p>Book – Rode Hall Silver Band – email <a href="mailto:stevetwemlow@msn.com">stevetwemlow@msn.com</a>. They charge us £200 and invoice us after the event. <i>Action- Donna Graham will email the band</i></p> <p>Book – Joanne Bayley dancers – email <a href="mailto:jobayleyschoolofdance@yahoo.co.uk">jobayleyschoolofdance@yahoo.co.uk</a>. They are free and dance after the end of the ceremony and school children's dances. They also bring lots of friends and relatives. <i>Action- Kathryn Egerton Brooks to contact Joanne Bayley.</i></p>
<b>JOBS LIST</b>	

<p><b>JOBS LIST</b></p> <p><b>ADVERTISING IN THE PROGRAMME</b></p> <p><b>ADVERTISING IN THE PROGRAMME</b></p>	<p><u>February</u></p> <p>Kath went through the following :</p> <p>-Get adverts in the programme – contact all previous year’s advertisers to see if they would like to advertise again. Charges are ¼ page -£20, ½ page – £35, full page – £60, full back page colour - £85.</p> <p>Need editorial content from Rector, Head, May Queen, Retiring Queen, Chair, Junior church, Mr Grumpy, names of pages, maids of honour, Astbury School advert, thank you messages. Photo of May Queen on Village green by Chronicle (usually April)</p> <p>Need to find somebody to put all the content together ready for printing.</p> <p>Need to find somebody to either print for free or find a good price.</p> <p>Invoice advertisers – cheques payable to ‘Astbury May Day’.</p> <p>Programme artwork specification:</p> <p>Programme artwork in pdf format.  The spec. is:  1000 copies  A5  20 pp booklet  colour outer  b/w inners</p> <p>Andrea Hoffman suggested that the children had a greeting to one another in the newsletter. The Committee thought this was a good idea and will be passed on to the school. <b>Action -Andrea Hoffman</b></p> <p><i>Action-Stephanie Morris will act as Editor and write to all the advertisers.</i></p> <p><i>Action-Donna Graham to contact William Ball for a quote to print the programme, she will also contact Congleton High School and enquire if this service is available and if they would like to advertise.</i></p> <p><i>Stephanie Morris will contact Jen Morris for a quote.</i></p> <p>There will also be a competition to design the front cover as in previous years, information will go out to the children in April- <b>Action KM and school.</b></p>
<p><b>CRAFT FAIR</b></p>	<p>We need to start selling craft fair space. This year stalls will be outside at the Glebe. £20 per stall and bring your own gazebo to be set up by 11am on May Day.</p> <p>The Village Hall needs to be booked but Sally needs to be aware that we won’t be going into the Hall as the stalls will be outside.</p> <p>Kath had enclosed a list of stall holders with email addresses within the jobs list. Rob said that he felt the field could accommodate more stalls if required.</p> <p><b>Action- Louise Goodier will contact the Wood Turning Club who expressed an interest in a stall.</b></p> <p><b>Kathryn Egerton Brooks will email the 2014 stall holders from the list.</b></p> <p><b>Donna Graham will contact Sally Brightwell to book the Village Hall.</b></p>

<p><b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b></p> <p><b>FAIRGROUND</b></p> <p><b>WRISTBANDS</b></p>	<p>Arrange event insurance policy £10 million public liability cover.</p> <p><i>Action- Kath Moore to organise insurance.</i></p> <p>Contact Police regarding the road closure.</p> <p>Contact St John Ambulance.</p> <p>Contact Cheshire East regarding the road closure <i>-Above Action- Richard Goodier</i></p> <p>Contact David Furness. He usually donates 10% of his profits. Email to book. <a href="mailto:Furnessfunfairs@aol.com">Furnessfunfairs@aol.com</a>. Request insurance and safety documents.</p> <p>Contact Andy Rathbone regarding swing boats and maybe other rides.</p> <p>Request Insurance and safety documents.</p> <p><i>Action – Rob Lomas will organise the rides with Andy Rathbone.</i></p> <p>Order wristbands in a new colour. Action <i>Andrea Hoffman to order the wristbands using the information in Kath's jobs list.</i></p>
<p><b>LETTERS TO VISITING QUEENS</b></p> <p><b>MARSHALLS</b></p> <p><b>RAFFLE</b></p> <p><b>BAND PRACTICE</b></p> <p><b>MAY DAY TRAILER ADVERTISING</b></p> <p><b>BANNERS</b></p>	<p>The letter to visiting May Queens needs updating. The procession will still go from school as normal. <i>Action- Stephanie Morris will make the changes in the letter and email the May Queens.</i></p> <p>Request marshals - Ask at school. Contact Cheshire Marshals email - <a href="mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org">jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org</a> (Jo Money). ATC will be helping – <a href="mailto:lynn.heyes@hotmail.co.uk">lynn.heyes@hotmail.co.uk</a> \ <a href="mailto:lynn.heyes@neighbourhoodinvestor.com">lynn.heyes@neighbourhoodinvestor.com</a> 01260 275014 or Phil Bonney email - <a href="mailto:congletonfr@aol.com">congletonfr@aol.com</a>. <i>Action- Kath Moore to contact the ATC.</i></p> <p>Contact Congleton Lions - Pat Wiltshier on <a href="mailto:jimwiltshier@tesco.net">jimwiltshier@tesco.net</a>. They run a games stall and donate all of the money to May Day. <i>Action- Kath Moore to contact Congleton Lions.</i></p> <p>Contact the Fire Station email - <a href="mailto:ceadminhub@cheshirefire.gov.uk">ceadminhub@cheshirefire.gov.uk</a>. They usually arrive at 12.30pm depending on incidents and need access near a clear entrance way. <i>Action- Louise Goodier to contact the Fire Station</i></p> <p>Rob Lomas suggested the Fire Engine could be at the end of the drive.</p> <p>Contact local companies to try and get 10 good raffle prizes for the grand draw. Kelly Heath and Vikki Dawson did this in 2013 and 2014 so would help pass on information. <i>Action- All Committee responsible for finding raffle prizes. Rob offered to sell them at the farm.</i> Stephanie Morris suggested a class were allocated the raffle stall.</p> <p>Andrea Hoffman said that Bellboy Print printed the Christmas Fair raffle tickets. <i>Action –Andrea Hoffman to contact Bellboy Print.</i></p> <p>Once the tickets are printed they need to be put in an envelope with a letter advertising the raffle and one sent out to each Astbury family. Mrs Cameron will provide a list of children's names. If the tickets can be handed out after the Easter holidays then it gives parents more of a chance to sell tickets.</p> <p>Richard Goodier said that Pete the Caretaker could sell the tickets alongside the wristbands, on the school door or by the allotment prior to May Day. 450 books are usually printed.</p> <p>Remind the band about the band practice on Thursday before May Day at 6.30pm. <i>Action – Donna Graham</i></p> <p>Paint the correct date on the May Day trailer signs. These are removable and just need to be unscrewed, re-painted and screwed back on. Gloss paint works. <i>Action – Duncan Amies to paint the trailer.</i> Duncan also agreed to organise some new banners either for free or at a good price. It was agreed that five 8 by 2 banners be ordered.</p>

**MAYPOLE**

Rob Lomas to move the trailer to the front paddock at the Glebe for advertising.

**Action -Stephanie Morris to email Cheshire East about the metal frame near New Life with a view to using that. Louise Goodier to email the Fire Station about using that as a banner location, she will also arrange to have one at Danesford by the McDonalds.**

Erect the maypole using the old ribbons initially. The bottom bit of the May Pole is still in the rectory lawn. The May Pole also needs to be moved from the rectory garage. **Action – Rob Lomas to move the May Pole and store it safely.**

The May Pole is to be erected in the Easter holidays.

Late April sort out the costumes by sizing up each child and putting their costume in a labelled bag. They are all washed after the previous May Day and stored in the school loft. Give out the costumes in advance of May Day to allow for any changes or repairs.

Advertise what items are needed on what day e.g. chocolate, bottles, toys, books, raffle prizes, cakes.

Advertise May Queen photos – who needs to be there and what do they need to wear.

Advertise to parents what time children should attend on May Day and what they need to wear.

**Action- Andrea Hoffman and Stephanie Morris to sort out the costumes.** Louise Jones has also offered to do some repairs on costumes.

The Committee would like donations from parents each Friday on the run up to May Day as in previous years. Kathryn Egerton Brooks suggested that team points were used instead of clothes.

May Queen Photos- usually done by Tempest. **Action- Andrea to ensure children and parents are aware of the photographs and what to wear etc.**

**MAY DAY STALLS**

KM discussed the May Day stalls with the Committee. DA asked if the Coconut Shy could be separated from the Plate Smashing as people tend to choose the plates over the Coconut Shy when they are next to each other.

The stalls are to be on the wall against the Church and the games at the front. DA said the plate smashing should be against the wall and RL said he would put some sheeting up to prevent debris going into the grave yard. KM said she would ask Sharon Heap if Churchill could provide the plates again. DA agreed to run the Plate Smashing and Coconut Shy stalls with his brother.

The Committee would like the classes to have a stall each again.

The Holfords and Stanmores will be approached again about the Fudge Stall

May

At the start of May, contact the Chronicle and place the advert for the Thursday before May Day. Cost approximately £120.

Rob suggested an advert also went in the free paper.

May Day Committee buy silver cross necklaces for each of the Reception maids. We will buy these from Argos as they seem like the cheapest £9.99 each in 2014.

The May Day Committee buy the Queen a bible and a necklace. New Life is good for these. These are presented on May Day.

Rob recommended JTF Wholesale at Fenton for some of the things needed. KM will look at prices.

It was decided that Marquee Refreshments would be discussed at the beginning of the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.



### **Parents' Evening Appointments**

Please indicate a preference of evening and a time and return to us.

Parent's evening appointments will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February between 3.30pm and 6.00pm and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

#### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 3.30pm ~ 6.00pm**

Name of child (ren) \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred time \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 4.00pm ~ 7.00pm**

Name of child (ren) \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred time \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Appointments are to be ten minutes in length so that teachers are able to complete their schedule and give a reasonable amount of time to all parents. If you wish to discuss your child's progress in more detail than this time allows please arrange for another visit with the class teacher.

### **Diary Dates**

<b>February</b>	
9th	Assessment week
11 <sup>th</sup>	Internet Safety Day
12th	Class Moses assembly 9.15am – parents welcome
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday Service 9.30am/Governor Day
13 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of half term
25 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30-6.00pm
26 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 4.00-7.00pm
<b>March</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day/Road Safety Presentation to all KS2
12 <sup>th</sup>	Class Moses trip – details to follow
13 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day