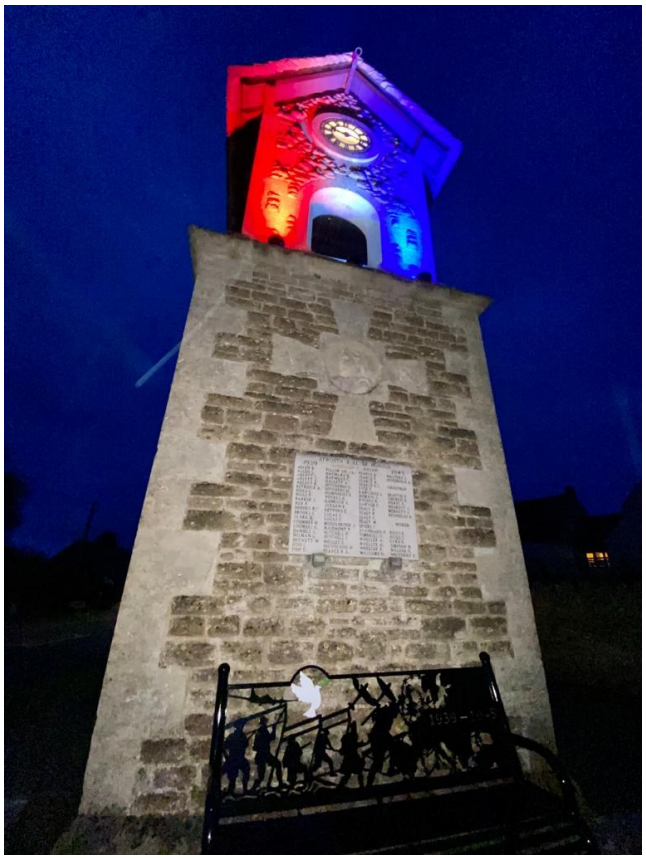
Atworth Updates







Dear Atworth Parish,

Welcome to the second edition of the new Atworth Updates. Thank you to everyone who took the time to pass on their comments about the first edition. We had lots of messages and it was really lovely to hear your positive feedback and that everyone is so happy to have a newsletter in some form up and running again. Thanks to those that have volunteered to help deliver and as always, those that make written contributions.

As a village we are very proud of our iconic Clock Tower. One of the things on the Parish Council 'to-do' list was to upgrade the lighting in and on the tower so that it is illuminated to show off its full glory. We thought the Coronation week was great time to launch this and we started with some royal red, white and blue. We were thrilled with the lovely comments about this—we are sure that it brought some festive fun to the residents and those travelling through the village alike. You may have noticed that the lights are now a warm white and the clock faces are backlit. This will be the 'norm' but keep your eyes peeled for more festive fun at the tower! We would like to say a big thanks to Paul at Light Fantastic in Melksham for his help, advice and time with this.

In other news, on Saturday 8th July the village was alive with the sounds of the last @Fest at The White Hart, under the stewardship of Kirsty and Nathan. Anyone who was there will tell you what a fantastic day it was despite the weather teasing us! This year, @Fest raised £1673.45 for Dorothy House. This makes the total raised, from the 12 @Fest events £11632.91. This is just incredible and as one we know, just one part of the amazing fundraising that The Cortillas have achieved in their time at the pub. We will say no more for now as we will say a proper goodbye in the next edition!

We'd love to hear from you. Please use the comment card on the back page to get in touch or email at news@atworth.org.

Enjoy the remaining Summer months, The Atworth Updates Team





Issue 2—August 2023

news@atworth.org

Traffic and Highways News

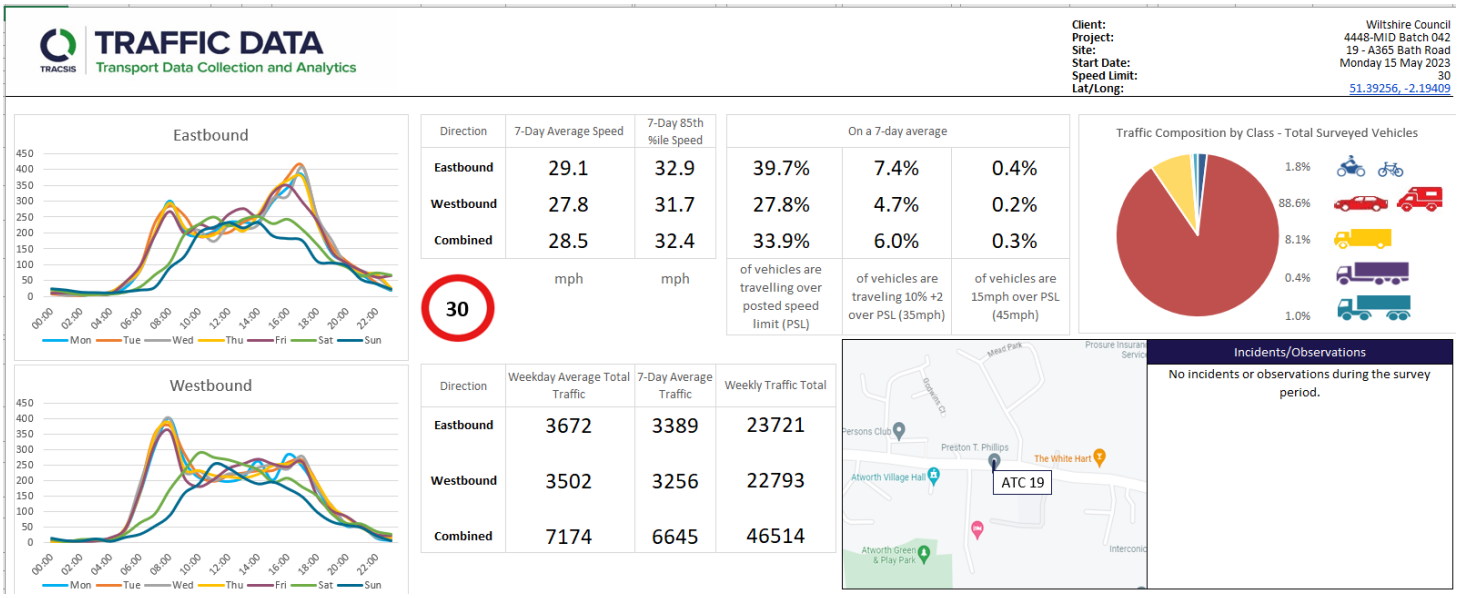


As always, Councillor Penny Telling has been really busy working with Wiltshire Council, the Highways Team and other stakeholders to make progress with the traffic issues in the village. We are waiting for the installation of the 20 mph speed limit along Bradford Road. We have now been informed that this is scheduled for August/ September.

Our speed indicator device (SID) is operational again, thanks to Jason and George Roberts, who have volunteered to look after it. The SID is most effective when it is moved regularly, so they have now moved it back to the other end of the village to catch the westbound traffic.

The results of the recent traffic survey along the Bath Road (A365) were puzzling as they didn't show the expected evidence of average speeds well over a the 30 mph limit. It seems the location chosen for the survey was probably not ideal due to the effect of parked cars and we have requested further checks at different locations. The Parish Council are still very concerned about road safety and noise and air pollution resulting from the high volume of traffic, often speeding, along the Bath Road and we have had a meeting with the Highways Engineer to discussion various options for traffic calming.

Below is the summary report from the traffic survey. If, like me, you like looking at graphs and data – it makes quite interesting reading!



TRAFFIC DATA
Transport Data Collection and Analytics

Client:	Wiltshire Council
Project:	4448-MID Batch 042
Site:	19 - A365 Bath Road
Start Date:	Monday 15 May 2023
Speed Limit:	30
Lat/Long:	51.39256, -2.19409

Eastbound

Westbound

Direction	7-Day Average Speed	7-Day 85th %ile Speed
Eastbound	29.1	32.9
Westbound	27.8	31.7
Combined	28.5	32.4
	mph	mph

30

On a 7-day average		
39.7%	7.4%	0.4%
27.8%	4.7%	0.2%
33.9%	6.0%	0.3%
of vehicles are travelling over posted speed limit (PSL)	of vehicles are traveling 10% +2 over PSL (35mph)	of vehicles are 15mph over PSL (45mph)

Traffic Composition by Class - Total Surveyed Vehicles

Direction	Weekday Average Total Traffic	7-Day Average Traffic	Weekly Traffic Total
Eastbound	3672	3389	23721
Westbound	3502	3256	22793
Combined	7174	6645	46514

Incidents/Observations

No incidents or observations during the survey period.

Another outstanding action is to fill in the gap in the double yellow lines at the entrance to Mead Park, which is still on the list to be done, but it seems to be bogged down somewhere in the system.

Finally, we have been informed that due to a road closure at Staverton, from 26th July HGV traffic will be diverted along the A365, through Atworth. Please be assured that we have campaigned hard to ask the Traffic team at Wiltshire Council to reconsider this, but we are sorry to say we have been unsuccessful. The diversion will be in place from the end of July and works are expected to be completed by Christmas.

Solar Farm Plans

Wiltshire Council are currently considering another solar energy plant in the Parish, having recently given permission for a large plant at Studley Farm.

The latest proposal is just off the Bradford Road on the lane towards Little Chalfield. The project is called Whistlemead Solar, the reference is PL/2023/01914 and the scheme will be the fourth in the immediate area.

The **Parish Council has objected to the application** on the basis of cumulative impact on the local countryside and the unreasonable expectation upon this local rural community to shoulder the burden of much of the County's solar energy provision.

There are environmental reasons for supporting solar energy and as a Parish Council we want to support renewable energy sources. However, solar farms are a visual blight on the countryside so there is a balance to be struck. This proposal will be visible from viewpoints on many of the footpaths and lanes near Broughton Gifford and Little Chalfield as well as immediately adjacent, and in some places several solar plants will be visible once they are built out. In some places those views will include industrial plant (power converters and large ranks of containerised batteries) as well as 3m high panels and high steel security fencing. The photos below show some of the longer views of the site. A stark bit of data: if the Whistelmead solar farms goes ahead 2% of Wiltshire's land, all in our local area, will be fulfilling 40% of the entire county's target for solar renewables.





This application does not provide any information on how the solar unit will be connected to the power grid and a further application will be necessary to resolve this. The Parish Council believes that this element of the scheme goes to the heart of the project and should form a part of the current application if it is to be properly judged. The applicant has indicated that the plant might be connected to the substation at Norrington Common some 3km away. None of the solar energy produced from these local plants directly benefits the local community and the developers of Whistlemead are not proposing any compensatory community benefits for the Parish.

As mentioned above, the Parish Council have objected to the development. However, everyone in the Parish can have their own say. Anyone who wishes to see more detail or to comment on the application can do so by going to the Wiltshire Planning website and searching under the reference number PL/2023/01914, or "Whistlemead". The application is due to be determined in September. We really encourage residents to do this to see all the information for themselves and make an informed decision about what you think. Take the opportunity to have your own say about how our energy is sourced and how the land in your Parish is used.

Happy 50th Anniversary!

Atworth History Group (July 2023)

As part of our celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Atworth History Group we presented a special talk to the village entitled, "A history of Atworth from the Romans to the third millennium". This was an attempt to pull together some of the research that had been done over the past 50 years, and to show how the village has changed over the years – and continues to change. We hope that everyone who attended one of the presentations enjoyed it, and are now more aware of Atworth History Group and what we do.



The old tollhouse at the junction of Bath and Bradford Roads in a post-card photograph by the Bradford photographer Phoebus Studio in the first decade of the 20th century. The building was where tolls were taken on the turnpike road from Melksham to Box, part of an old route from London to Bath.

Note from the Editor: *I was lucky enough to attend the session on Monday 3rd July. I have to say, I thought it was absolutely fascinating! It was great to see the Village Hall packed with residents, listening to the really fun and engaging explanation of the timeline of our village. David told me they have delivered this talk to around 160 residents now—and I know there are still lots of people who would love to hear it but haven't had a chance yet. David is happy to run the talk again in the Autumn if there is enough interest. Please do let Atworth History Group or the Parish Council know if you would like this talk to run again. Thanks again to all involved—it made my week!*

Atworth History Group is having its Summer break at the moment. Here are details of the next two talks:

- 2nd October: Nick Baxter – The life and time of the poet, Samuel Coleridge
- 6th November: Hilary Hough – Fortress Ilminster; WWII preparations against a German invasion

These talks will take place at 7:30pm in Atworth Village Hall. Visitors are very welcome to come along, though we do charge £5 per person – or you may wish to join the History Group for an annual subscription of £15. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served at the end of the meetings.

Atworth Museum will be open until the end of October on the last Sunday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. It's housed in a barn on Bradford Road, just to the right of The Old Forge – look out for the signs. The museum has been tidied up and expanded this year, so it's well worth a visit even if you've been before.

We are in the process of organising a 50th anniversary Atworth boundary walk to take place on Saturday 26th August. At present we're getting the necessary permissions to walk across private land, but all being well (and weather permitting) we'll meet in the field opposite Pie Corner at 9:30am. The boundary is about 10 miles in length. If you'd like to take part, but doubt you'd manage to complete the whole walk, we will have a vehicle available at several points along the way to get you home.

Should you like further information about Atworth History Group or any of the events mentioned, please contact Gervase on 01225 703187 or Hilary on 01225 793647.

St Michael's Churchyard Maintenance

Do you have a couple of spare hours on a Saturday morning? If so, how about coming along to St Michael's churchyard to help keep it tidy? We meet on the second Saturday in each month at about 9:30am, and work until lunchtime – or whenever you've had enough! Thank you to everyone who came in July, and to Robert who spent quite a lot of time in the churchyard on the Friday. It was lovely to be working in a group and to see how much work got done. The pile of cuttings and ivy is taller than me!

At the moment, most of the work is clearing ivy, elder and brambles from gravestones or the church building, so please bring appropriate garden tools and gloves. The next meeting will be Saturday 12th August.





Going forward, there will be a greater emphasis on creating wild areas around the churchyard that will be linked with a series of paths. We are mindful, however, that some areas have more visitors than others, so we will try to ensure that those graves are more easily accessible.

For more information, please contact David on 01225 793647.

Atworth in Bloom— Summer Recipe

Recipes from the allotment

The summer season brings an abundance of fruit and vegetables. It's bit like the buses, you wait for ages and then they all turn up in one go. It can be overwhelming to make good use of all the various produce and how often do we fall in love, and quickly out of love with a specific vegetable, (like the courgette?).

With this in mind, it's best to go into the season with an arsenal of good and thrifty recipes.



In our house, Grandad Pat's strawberry plants that we transported all the way from North Yorkshire last year, seem to have well and truly acclimatised to their new southern home and we had more strawberries than the Wimbledon Catering Team this year! Thanks to Atworth's own super chef, Pravin— Head Chef and Owner of Castle Farm restaurant, Midford, for supplying this fabulously simple and elegant dessert recipe to help me use them all up!

This recipe for an indulgent Almond and Strawberry semi freddo (or any fruit for that matter) is a great way of making use of the big crops and being able to use them in a tasty and different way. You never know when you will need a good pudding to hand or when your friends might suddenly pop over for a cheeky drink in the garden! This semifreddo will be sure to impress and will match any 80s Vienetta on Wow factor.



Recipe

4 eggs, white and yolks separated.
100g caster sugar
300ml double cream
1 tbsp fruity liqueur (or any booze you have lying around)
Strawberries, (could be compote, frozen ones, jam, or mushy ones from the back of the fridge)
100g Caramelised almonds (optional) (best way is to lay the almonds on a tray, sprinkle some sugar and pop them in the oven til they turn golden brown, let them cool before adding them to the semifreddo mix)

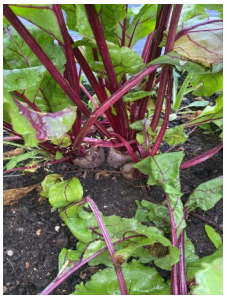
Method

1. Mix alcohol, egg yolks and sugar.
2. Beat the egg whites to soft peaks.
3. Beat the egg yolk mixture to a light and fluffy texture.
4. Beat the double cream in a separate bowl.
5. Fold the cream into the egg yolk mix.
6. Fold in the egg whites, taking care not to knock all the air out of them.
7. Gently fold in the almonds and the strawberries. (add as many strawberries as you fancy, and you can mix it completely or keep it rippled.
8. Pop in a container, and freeze for 6 hours minimum. (Works great for ice cream lollies for the kids as well).
9. Take out 10-15 minutes before serving. Semifreddo means half frozen, so it should have a chilled and velvety texture.

EAT!








We called out to Atworth residents to tell us about what's growing in their gardens and what will be plentiful in July and August. Above we have Lesley's Cobra climbing French beans and red gooseberries, Laura's beautiful peas and baby plum tomatoes and Matt's beetroot and courgette. If you have any recipes that you would like to share that could make use of this wonderful fruit and vegetable harvest—please send them in! A personal SOS from me— a non-soup courgette recipe please!

What's happening?

Atworth Youth Centre

Welcome to Atworth Youth Centre

We currently run three session a week in the evenings.

- Monday 6.30pm – 9pm is our "No Limits" SEN Session for Youth aged 13yrs-25yrs.
- Tuesday 6.30pm – 9pm is our Seniors Session for Youth in Year 7,8 & 9.
- Thursday 6pm – 8pm is our Juniors Session for Youths in Year 5,6 & 7.

Subs are £2 per session, but currently due to a cost of living grant we received we have halved our fees to £1 per session till the end of September.

Atworth Youth Centre is a safe space for young people to meet up with friends or talk to our youth workers.
They can help develop and shape the programme across the year, discuss issues and get advice and support from our youth work team or just chill with friends.

Young people can take part in a wide range of activities including:

- Advice and guidance
- Sports and games
- Cooking and baking
- Arts and crafts
-

These activities are delivered alongside issue-based provision and support that address a wide range of subjects that affect young people. Examples include:

- Drug and alcohol awareness
- Personal safety
- Managing relationships
- Independent life skills
- Skills develop.
- Positive activities
- Equality and diversity

We are open all year including half terms, apart from bank holiday Mondays and during our two week closure over Christmas.



Atworth Guides

Girlguiding

Atworth Guides began in 1954. We have had 4 Queens and 3 1st Class Guides and 12 Baden Powell Trefoils. Over the years we've enjoyed many outdoor activities, camps and weekends away. Also trips to Switzerland. Gone to music festivals, ice skating ,glow golf ,swimming, theme parks and taken part and helped at local community events.

Next year we'll be celebrating 70 years of 1st Atworth Guides so we'll be deciding on how to celebrate!

We have spaces available for girls looking to join, each girl decides how they would like to celebrate after they've made their Guide Promise. Some examples are swimming , Disney and 80's parties. Some girls have made promises amongst the Christmas decorations at Whitehall, then gone ice skating, some next to the swimming pool and some prefer just a picnic party with Guide friends.

We are still looking for volunteers, as without these the weekly meetings can't take place unfortunately.
So if you, your daughter or granddaughter would like to join us get in touch. Our contact numbers are; 07738 280582 or 07825229184

We hope to speak to you soon.

1st Atworth Guides
Fe , Jane and Lynn.
Tigger , Roo and Cappy.

Atworth WI

We had a brilliant outing to see the SS Great Britain in Bristol, on June 8th. It was a very hot day, and everyone really enjoyed the guided tour.
We have held group litter-picks, walks and other social events, including going to live-screenings of opera and ballet at Wiltshire Music Centre.

Our next meeting in the Village Hall will be on September 18th, with a talk from the charity, Mercy Ships.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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, the hall has been totally refurbished with the hall being repainted with a neutral colour. 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 activities and is covered by Wi-Fi.

The Main Hall is the perfect choice for children's parties, family gatherings or regular local interest groups and business activities. Meanwhile the Meeting room is suitable for small groups and businesses for up to approx. twelve people. It can be used for numerous activities such as interviews, meetings, training courses and can be used as a small office if required. It can also be used for small regular interest groups.

Please contact us for further details regarding hiring the main hall or meeting room and we will be happy to help you.

Please contact the Booking Officer on mobile number 07399 350774 and leave a message,

email: Atworthvillage@yahoo.com

or telephone the Chairman on 07960 285279 or email:

Richard.Clark2@talktalk.net

Atworth 200 Club



You may have noticed that recently Atworth 200 Club application form was placed through your letter box. To many of you, it may have been seen as junk mail and was placed in the bin. However, the Atworth 200 Club brings in much needed revenue to the village hall which helps us to continue our work of improving or replacing equipment in both the village hall and recreation ground. Therefore, although it may appear to be too late to join our club, we will still allow entries until the end of July. To join contact Richard Clark on 07960 285279 or email: Richard.clark2@talktalk.net

If you are not happy with what looks like gambling, you can always provide a donation for us to carry on this much needed work!

Chocolate Bingo

The village hall is hoping to put on a Chocolate Bingo event early in September. For those who do not know, it is the same as ordinary bingo but all the prizes are chocolate, and you know how everyone loves chocolate. It should be fun for all your family and friends. Keep an eye on this newsletter, outside the village hall or entries in Facebook for further details.

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.





Atworth Independent Church

As a Church without a Minster / 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.

Rodney Price - Secretary - Atworth Independent Church - The Chapel by the Clock.

The School Pool

Churchfields The Village School, Outdoor Swimming Pool

As you may or may not be aware, at Churchfields The Village School, Atworth we are lucky enough to have an outdoor swimming pool. The pool was installed in the 1960's and I believe it was the generous people of Atworth village who made this possible.

Unfortunately during the pandemic we were unable to open the pool for a number of years and it fell into disrepair. Tasked with a very optimistic ambition of opening the pool this summer, a fantastic team of parent volunteers worked incredibly hard to revamp the pool. We can't thank these volunteers enough, they gave up their afternoons, evenings and weekends to bring our pool back to life.

Together the weeds were removed (and continue to be), the paving slabs were pressure washed and the fences and gates were repaired. The changing rooms had the original, leaky roof removed and new roof felt was fitted, the windows were replaced, it was given a fresh coat of paint and the insides were refurbished. Pool World, from Corsham visited numerous times to get the pump running, the pool clean and ensure it was in a suitable condition for the children to use.

We have gone from this … to this!



We would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who helped with this transformation. We could not have done this without them.

We were delighted to open the pool on Friday 23rd June for our Extravaganza Day, all of the children had the opportunity to use the pool and have continued to do so almost every day since. We are planning to open the pool to all pupils over the summer holidays, again thanks to a team of generous parents who have offered their time to make this possible.

This is a fantastic resource for our small school and we don't want to lose it. We need to keep fundraising to keep the pool running year after year, enabling the children to learn to swim, improving their levels of physical exercise and contributing towards improving their mental health. However, further improvements are required at a significant cost and the school simply does not have the funds for these. We need to renew the current solar panels to heat the water or install a new heating system, the pool liner will need replacing and eventually the changing rooms will need replacing. Our long term goal, if we could raise enough and gain permission, would be to build a permanent structure around the pool so it can be used all year round.

We have set up a crowdfunder page to help us raise these much needed funds, every penny will count and make a huge difference to all the children at our small school. Can you help by donating towards our cause or by sharing our story and crowdfunding page?

Help us to support the health and wellbeing of all our pupils at Churchfields. Please visit our crowdfunding page and donate if you can.

https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/churchfields-the-village-school

Our response to Atworth Issues: July

TENNIS COURT

Wimbledon got a few people thinking about the tennis court in the Recreation Ground and we had several letters asking if the court could be made more accessible, especially for children. Apparently in the past, the court was not locked and was used much more in those days. The Council supported the idea of encouraging better use of this facility and have written to the Village Hall & Recreation Ground Committee asking them to consider leaving the court open and freely available to residents during the school holidays.



NEW DEFIBRILLATOR SIGNS

You may have noticed the new signs to the defibrillator which is located on the side of the Village Hall. The signs are now clearly visible and can be seen from both directions along the Bath Road.

If you have friends or family visiting, point out where the defibrillator is. Watch this space—the council has plans to try and secure a second defibrillator for the village in the future.





BEAR GARAGE SECURITY

We were concerned to hear a report of a late-night disturbance down at the Bear Garage, when a gang of men tried unsuccessfully to break in. The police were alerted and the gang dispersed without causing any significant damage. But this latest incident, following the major theft a couple of months ago, shows that the garage is a prime target for vandals and thieves. The Council are seeking advice from Wiltshire Police with a view to recommending that the owners of the garage consider increasing their security measures.

CLOCKTOWER LIGHTING

We have upgraded the lighting of the Clocktower. It will be lit up warm a warm white glow all year round and we have fixed the back-lighting of the clockfaces. The lighting of the Clocktower for the Coronation was enjoyed by many residents and the Council has plans to create a special lighting effect for Remembrance Day in November. We are also considering something festive for Christmas and firm proposals will be discussed at our next meeting in September.

DANGEROUS TREE

We had a letter about a dangerous tree across the stile behind Godwins Close. The Neston Park Farm Manager reacted quickly to our request that it be made safe and the work was completed the following day.

FLOWER BEDS

Flower beds are always an asset to any village and we have two planters by the Clocktower which need replanting for the winter and next Spring. We are currently talking to the The Botanic Nursery about how we can work together on this. Coincidentally, the WI have asked if they can put several more planters at different locations and it seems sensible to bring those two initiatives together. Again, a firm proposal will be put to the September meeting.

LITTER & RUBBISH



At every meeting recently, we ponder the question of litter and rubbish bins but there are no easy answers. We have also been concerned at the resurgence of fly tipping at the entrance to the village from Shaw and again there is no easy solution. It's on the agenda again as a big item for our next meeting in the hope we can find a way of improving the current situation. We've previously met with Wiltshire Councillor Trevor Carbin about measures to deter fly-tipping in the lay-by at the other end of the village. These are the 'No Fly-Tipping' signs now in the lay-by.

OUR HANDYMAN



John Day, who has agreed to help out with some of the repairs and maintenance around the village, has done a great job repainting the gates at each entrance at each end of the Bath Road. He has also done a review of the benches in the Recreation Ground and carried out necessary repairs. **If you see anything which could do with mending, refreshing or replacing, drop an email to the Parish Clerk at clerk@atworth.org to get it added to John's list.**

What is the Parish Council?

Many residents in the village are aware of the Parish Council and their role. However, maybe as many are not? Here's some FAQ's about the roles and responsibilities of Atworth Parish Council.

What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish, these councils are the first level of local government. They provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the county authority above it in the hierarchy. As the authority closest to the people, we are invariably the first port of call people go to with their concerns or ideas. For this reason, we are a vital part of any community.

What responsibilities do Parish Councils have?

Local councils generally work towards improving community wellbeing and providing better services at a local level. Their activities fall into three main categories: **representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; seeking to improve quality of life and community wellbeing.** Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect their local community.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Parish councils can extend their powers to do anything to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their community as long as it is within the law. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees) and other localised issues. For example, Atworth has historically had an issue with traffic matters and the parish council are key in ensuring parishioners views and concerns are communicated with Wiltshire Council and the Highways department. As a community, we want to ensure everyone is kept safe and our village is not spoiled by speeding and heavy traffic.

On their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions, but are responsible for managing their own budgets. These are financed through the precept, an amount of money determined by the parish council and collected as part of your Council Tax. This money is used to improve facilities and services for local people. Parish councils can also apply for other funding, such as grants and awards, and have the authority to award grants, in certain circumstances, from the precept. Organisations that have the final say on bigger decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and our views are taken seriously. **But we need to hear what the community has to say to best represent it. Please see the back page of this newsletter!**

Parish Council Duties

Atworth Parish Council has 6 councillors. As of August 2023, we are 3 councillors short of a full complement. The duties and functions of a parish council are many and varied so it is an interesting position to hold. We meet once a month (except August) and meetings are designated as 90 minutes in duration. The agenda is available one week prior to the meeting, and can be seen on the website, social media pages and notice boards. We discuss and decide upon planning applications and any other matters referred to it by local residents. **There is also an annual parish meeting which all parishioners are invited to.** All meetings are advertised on the council notice boards and on the website – meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month. Residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority, or point the parishioner in the right direction. You can contact our Parish Clark, Martin Kyte at Clerk@atworth.org or **return the comments slip on the back page of this newsletter to the Grey Postbox at 59 Bath Road.**

Out and about in the parish community



Since starting at the end of May, Tracey, our new Communications and Project Officer, has been out and about in the parish community (you might have seen her with her dog, Henry), meeting the community groups and local businesses that help make this the wonderful parish that it is.

She was fascinated to learn that lifeboats will contain a vital component which has been made right here in Atworth and had a wonderful time visiting Simone and the team at Leafield Marine who manufacture these components. She has also been to visit Mary and the team at The Botanic Nursery (which Tracey describes as a living art gallery) which houses the National Collection of Digitalis (Foxgloves) and discovering about harmony gardening. Tracey is working with both of these organisations to look at ways that they can become more involved in Atworth village.

Tracey has really enjoyed meeting local community groups and finding out more about the wonderful work that they are doing for the parish and beyond. She'd like to give a shout out to all those she has met so far: Richard at Atworth Village Hall, Jane at Atworth Guides and Moya at Atworth Brownies, Jessica and Nicola at Atworth Youth Centre, David and the team from Atworth History Group who run the Atworth Museum (well worth a visit!), Mary and Lesley at the WI, Reverend Jane Palmer and Church Wardens at St Michael and All Angels, Rodney and Christine at Atworth Independent Church (the Chapel by the Clock) and Kenneth Spencer, editor of the former 'The Atworth Village Magazine'. It has been wonderful meeting you and finding out more about your wonderful work.

Tracey's work assists your Parish Councillors in identifying areas of most need within the parish community and how your Parish Council, local groups and local businesses can all work together to address these needs. Look out for Tracey and Henry out and about in the community as she's continuing to meet with groups and businesses in the parish. If you're a local community group or local business interested in working with the Parish Council to help the community, do drop Tracey an email via tracey@atworth.org.

Who are Atworth PC?

Councillor Emma Roberts - Chair



Emma is Chair of Atworth Parish Council and has lived in Atworth with her husband Jason and their son, George for about 9 years along with their Scottish Terrier, Logan. Emma joined the Parish Council as she didn't want to see it having to fold due to a lack of members. Since joining she's seen lots of change within a short time and loves working with the amazingly engaged and enthusiastic team of Councillors the parish currently has. Emma's prime interest is in breaking down some of the traditional stereotypes of parish councils, and more transparent communication about what the parish council does and achieves. She is very proud of every achievement made for the community be it a new sign or this fab newsletter.

Councillor Penny Telling



Penny is retired and moved to the village with her partner five years ago. She plays golf and loves dogs and gardening, amongst other things. Her prime interest on the Parish Council is traffic and highways issues, in particular working towards some traffic calming solutions along the Bath Road (A365).

Councillor Sarah Davies



Sarah has lived in the Atworth area for 25 years. A mother of four, she has been a childcare provider for 35 years, 15 years as a childminder. Her prime interest is in making a difference in safer roads for both humans and animals, driving community spirit in the parish and more being done for children and young people. She believes in better communication and loves the recent revival of the newsletter!



Philip has joined the Parish Council following a career in business and is our Chalfield representative. He has lived in Little Chalfield for over 32 years, has two grown up daughters, and is currently a trustee of a number of other charities including The Friends of the Royal United Hospital. He has also served as a School Governor and brings a wealth of experience to our team. He is keen to help make things better for residents in all areas of village life.

Parish Clerk – Martin Kyte



Martin has recently joined Atworth Parish Council as their new Parish Clerk. He brings over 35 years of experience gained from working in the public sector in areas such as the Civil Service, accumulating considerable knowledge of financial management, procurement, planning and accounting. Having lived in Atworth for almost ten years, he felt that it was the right time to apply his knowledge and skills set to local issues and helping the local community, whilst continuing to work full-time as a financial controller. Married to Sasha, they have a son and a few 'furry lodgers'. As Parish Clerk, Martin wants to bring local communities together and de-mystify some of the conceptions around council business, to make it as transparent and informative as possible.

Councillor Maddy Palmer—Vice Chair



Maddy is a Planning Consultant specializing in Enforcement. Married to Andrew, they have two teenage sons together with Wilbur the dog. She enjoys skiing, walking, food, wine and fun! Her prime interest in the Parish Council is in planning, together with keeping the parish beautiful and vibrant, and bringing the community together.

Councillor Shauna Green



Shauna moved to Atworth 11 years ago with her family. She enjoys running, travel and camping, food and discovering new adventures. As a secondary school teacher and Mum of 2 teenagers, Shauna is passionate about making sure the village continues to be a fabulous place for young people to grow up and flourish. She joined the Parish Council because she is very proud to be belong to the Atworth community and wants to make a contribution to making it the best place it can be for those that call it Home.

Communications and Project Officer – Tracey King



In a new role created by the Parish Council, Tracey brings a background gained from working in various sectors, delivering outreach and building up relationships and stakeholder communities. She has lived in Atworth for five years and can often be seen being walked by her dog, Henry. Tracey is passionate about giving back to the community and gets very excited finding out about the wonderful things being done for this fantastic community. A Chartered Scientist, she also works part-time for Wiltshire Council.



Would you like to join us? We still have 3 vacancies on the

Parish Council. See the back page for details.

Get Involved

COUNCILLOR VACANCY



Although we are a busy and active Parish Council, we still have **3** 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.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

As you have read on the previous page, 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 59 Bath Road.
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 Grey Postbox at 59 Bath Road