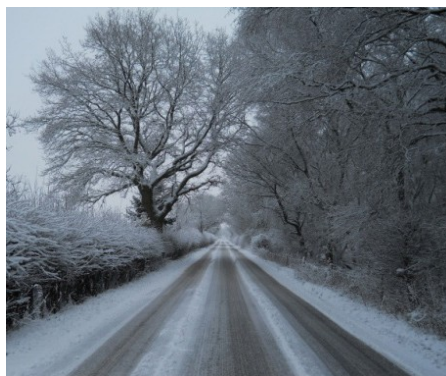


ANTROBUS 2000 to 2015



FOREWORD

This book has been produced by members of Antrobus W.I and Antrobus Heritage Group and prepared for publication by Angela Yeoman. It is an update of the W.I Scrapbooks and the Antrobus Heritage Book "Antrobus, A Country Parish at the Millennium", which was published in late 1999.

It is now 2015 and many things have changed in Antrobus, particularly the way of life, occupations and housing of the people living here. Therefore we felt that the book should be updated, emphasizing the social history of our small Country Village. We have done this by asking people to write articles about their way of life now and we hope you and future generations will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed compiling it.

If we have made any errors please accept our apologies. – We have tried to ensure that everything is correct.

Thanks to everyone who has helped us in any way, especially those who have been "encouraged" to write an article.

Thanks also for allowing use of your photographs.

Probably in another 15 years time everything will again be completely different, although we cannot imagine how it will have changed. We hope that a group will form to provide a record of the changes.

Ann Barlow

Joy Corlett

Derek Enfield

Sue Enfield

Susan Yeoman

Angela Yeoman

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COMMUNITY



THE ANTROBUS ARMS



In 1989 myself and Sandra, after successfully running 2 pubs in Burscough, Lancashire, decided to leave the pub industry, and move back to Antrobus to marry and start a family. What better place to bring up our children.

After watching the Antrobus Arms rise and fall, rise again and fall again and again and again, we sat down and really thought about it and we felt that we could 'maybe' make a go of it. We felt that we had a slight advantage over all the previous tenants, who had tried so hard, but it just hadn't quite worked. Our advantage was; - not only did we know the 'pub game' but we also knew a little about Antrobus, after all I was born and bred here and by this time myself and Sandra had been living in the Post Office for 15 years, the kids by now were at an age where we also felt they could cope with what lay ahead.

We moved into the 'AA' on Thursday 7th September 2006 and started work straight away. We inherited 1 full time member of staff (Lynn, our chef, who has stuck with us through thick and thin and is still here with us now) and 3 part time members of staff.

We decided from day 1 what we wanted to do. The Antrobus Arms is a pub and that's what we wanted. There are lots of nice 'restauranty' type pubs in the area but we wanted a pub, but a pub where you could take your wife or meet your friends.

We have to admit it wasn't easy. At the time, it was a smoky old building and the low ceilings didn't help but we gradually tempted, pushed or shoved our regular drinkers into the bar where they could enjoy live football, darts and the swear box and the usual stuff that men like. This allowed us to put what we thought was a good and reasonably priced menu in place and to make the rest of the pub a little more inviting. Over the months and years lots of things happened, the support from our locals increased week by week and then the introduction of the smoking ban, while crucifying some pubs helped us massively, everything was going to plan and our client base was increasing and our regulars started to come from further afield.

At this time the pub was owned by the 'Punch Taverns' pub company, whom we have to say were not the best business partners and we now realised another reason why our predecessors and their predecessors struggled and failed. The more effort we put in and the busier we got, the more the rent would increase at the annual review, along with the price of our tied beer and products.

Fortunately for us 'Punch' hit hard times and they had to sell off some of their assets, so in early 2010 we managed to purchase the freehold of 'The Arms' totally releasing us from 'Punch' and any brewery ties.

We have hopefully kept to our plan and we are still a pub and not a restaurant, but a pub selling good food and a meeting place for our locals, our regulars and of course anyone else who likes what we do. We have to say that the locals regulars and customers have really supported us and helped us to survive while so many other pubs have fallen by the wayside. Thank you.

We now have 5 full time employees and 17 part time staff, mainly from the village and surrounding villages (Lynn is still with us alongside 2 of her daughters) and of course our children, Reg and Rosie are here and help us out too. Our menu is now much more varied and we offer a selection of ever changing daily specials, but we still try to make sure our food offer revolves around the traditional menu that we started with. Our 2 most popular dishes

are by far our (Lynn's) homemade steak and ale pie and our beer battered cod.



We are still the home of 'The Antrobus Soulcasters', 'The Wheatsheaf B', and we have numerous other clubs using us for regular meetings and events, including 2 other darts teams, 2 gun clubs, 6 car enthusiast clubs, 1 motorbike club, The Young Farmers (and the old farmers). We have regular meetings for various village committees which we try our best to accommodate and support.

Thank you

By Trevor and Sandra Collins

ANTROBUS4YOUTH (A4Y)

Antrobus4youth (A4Y) became a formally constituted charity on the 17th June 2010.

Its aim was and continues to be to provide recreational and educational facilities for young people between the ages of 11 and 18 years, irrespective of ability and disability, who live in the Antrobus area.

The Antrobus Parish Plan 2005 identified the need for local facilities for young people living in Antrobus. For a variety of reasons it was not possible to address this need in any permanent way until September 2009 when a working group was formed to re-assess the need and situation. This group was a mixed age group including young person representation.

With the help of “Connexions” (the Local Authority Youth Project support agency) and finance from local Village organisations and individuals, an event was held in the Antrobus Village Hall in November 2009. This was to re-test the need and support for a youth group in the area. It was a complete success, 34 young people, in the age range 11 to 18 years attended.

Formal feedback was obtained from all attendees. They indicated full support for regular on-going youth activities in the area. In addition a number of young people, who were unable to attend, indicated their support and willingness to attend future events. Interest in a wide range of regular activities was expressed.

In the light of this feedback the working group, including young people, expanded and became a steering committee to set up a formally constituted organisation (as required by the Charity Commission). The necessary child protection procedures were undertaken and with the assistance of Connexions – who acted as event leaders – bi-monthly sessions were arranged. The group became a registered member of the “Youth Federation”.

The sessions were well supported and throughout years 2010 and 2011 events included; mini-Olympics, ten-pin bowling, field events and indoor games evenings. All the sessions were well attended and were expanded in years 2012 and 2014, to include visits to facilities such as “Jump Nation” Old

Trafford. Sessions were organised again at approximately 3 month intervals. The Antrobus Soul Cakers have visited yearly to “liven up” one of the games evenings.

One of the most popular events was a Christmas Treasure Hunt and quiz at Marbury Park. This was well supported in years 2010 to 2013. It was decided to have a break in 2014 but will be considered in future.

Attendance has varied over the years, with older children moving on and younger children joining. Now at the beginning of 2015 the group is setting out to review the current needs and wishes of children in Antrobus and to devise a suitable programme and structure to accommodate them.

A4Y has had support of many kinds from a number of local organisations and individuals. We thank them all for their support, donations, and free use of equipment and premises.

By J P Harrison

BEER FESTIVAL



Antrobus Beer Festival is a small local beer festival run by local volunteers right here in your very own Village Hall. The Festival started in 2007 and takes place annually, usually the first or second Saturday of October.

We usually have up to 10 cask bitters and various well-brewed lagers and ciders. We always have a geographical theme and pit the best Cheshire bitters against challengers from near and far, that have ranged from Lancashire to Germany.

On the night we have a band and tasty local food. Wine and soft drinks are available from the bar. Children are welcome.





By Gavin Newby

CAROL SINGING



Carol singing around the village of Antrobus is a tradition that has been going strong for many years. Records show that it was started in 1930 by Miss Isabel Bennett and Miss Hardy, who were members of the Methodist Chapel in Barbers Lane. They went out one night after the service on a Sunday evening, with the choir, to raise funds for the Chapel.

In 1933 they progressed to three nights – Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings leading up to Christmas Day. At this time they only visited the homes of Chapel members and connected families, still collecting for their own funds.

Whether the tradition carried on during the war years, I really couldn't say. (But as a child in 1959 I was allowed to go out with the choir, and stand at the front being the youngest!).

Since 1959 the tradition has carried on through all sorts of weather, hail, rain, snow, fog, frost and extreme winds.

In the 1970's the carol singers were no longer from the Chapel only, but St Mark's Church members were encouraged to join, and also an open invitation was given to "anyone who enjoyed singing" to come along. Meeting at the Village Hall Car Park for a prompt 6.45pm start!

By now the singers were transported round in cars and over the years the number of houses "called on" has increased to almost every house on the 36 miles of road in the Parish of Antrobus. Since the year 2000 the number of nights has increased to six, leading up to Christmas Eve.

Each year a different charity is chosen to receive the monies collected. Still the Chapel and St Mark's receive a proportion of the collection. Charities which have benefitted are numerous. Usually local charities are chosen e.g.:-

Guide Dogs for Blind

Samaritans

Salvation Army

Children's Cancer Charities

Riding for the Disabled

Motor Neurone Disease Association

Muscular Sclerosis

League of Friends (Northwich & Warrington hospitals)

Clatterbridge & Christie Hospitals

The Alzheimer's Society.

And most recently Alder Hey Hospital

Since 1992 at least £40,000 has been raised.

But it is not all about raising money; Christmas is all about celebrating the birth of Jesus and the message of Christmas is taken to each home in the carols sung.

In 1998 a total of 52 singers turned out to sing on 4 nights. Ages ranging from 10 to 70 years plus. Each night the singers end up at someone's home for

supper which is much appreciated, and this gives us chance for the night's collection to be counted.

Many friendships have been made during Carol Singing week and in most cases the singers are welcomed and appreciated. In fact they are told many times – please don't give it up.



By Kath and Dave Hankey

CHRISTMAS MARKET



In 2000 it was decided by the Village Hall Committee that a Christmas Market might prove to be a good way of making some more money, but this time from people other than the usual members of the committee and the usual helpers. By charging for stalls the idea would be that the people concerned would make their own profit and the Village Hall would receive the rent for the stalls and possibly have a raffle.

Of course this was developed and it was decided that we would have an “All Day Bistro”, and a craft stall plus home made produce, run by several members of the Committee and friends. Father Christmas would need to be present in his Grotto with his helpers and so (like Topsy) it grew. It was decided that there would be no entry charge and, if possible only one stall selling each product.

Mince pies and drinks would be sold throughout the day with the committee room being used for the Bistro which proved very popular.

Nepalese gifts were very popular, probably because they made lovely presents and were a “bit different”, and we were delighted to find that the goods being sold were all very good quality. We even had sausages from

pigs reared in the Village and of course the “Old Orchard Preserves” were much in evidence.

Each year the committee have thought about not doing it again, but there seems to be a need plus it is enjoyed by most people.

Stalls which attended in 2014 were selling the following:-

Olives, Oil & Cheese	Cards and wrapping paper
Pies & Local sausages	Nepalese gifts
Jams and chutneys	Homemade soap & Beauty
Homemade cakes	Products
Mince pies & Christmas puddings	Books & Wood turned gifts
Glass and stone charms	
Small children and ladies clothing	
Village hall homemade items	
Christmas decorations	
Father Christmas & Grotto	
Sleigh rides	

By Joy Corlett

CLERGY I HAVE KNOWN

I knew Rev. Coleman, not in the parish, but as part of the deanery, he was much loved. He retired to Yorkshire in 1994.

After an interregnum, following the departure of Revd. Revel, the Revd. David Johnson was installed as Vicar of the 4 Parishes, Antrobus, Aston by Sutton, Little Leigh and Lower Whitley. The installation service was held at Aston and David was pleased to see a couple of people he knew in his new congregation. We had been members of St. Mary Magdalene's Church in Appleton when he was there as a curate. David quickly approached the Bishop, asking for my licence to be transferred to the four parishes. David was very good with the elderly and enjoyed visiting. In services he believed in keeping strictly to the approved liturgy but also encouraged his Readers to be involved, and lead parts of the Holy Communion service as well as leading services when he was elsewhere. At 60 he chose semi-retirement and moved to a parish in Crewe, which was his home town, as an Assistant Priest.

Richard Diggle was installed as part time priest in charge with responsibility for the four parishes. Richard was very keen on supporting village life but, with 4 villages to support, this was not always possible. When work on the building of St. Mark's Church was required he did many hours of searching and identifying connections with A.W. Boyd and contacted many people and organisations who might be interested in a Boyd Centre which he felt was the best route to restoring St. Mark's and making more use of the building. These plans were not finalised before the heavy work load (Richard worked many more hours than he should as a part-time priest), started to tell and it was thought a change would be beneficial. He returned to a south Cheshire parish where he had been a curate, which included a small, well maintained church and a hall chapel, with lots of support from the people in the parish.

After some discussion at Diocesan level it was decided to change the four parish arrangement and Antrobus was encouraged to return to being a Parish on its own with its own responsibilities for finance while Whitley, Little Leigh and Aston were merged into one parish.

The Revd. Alec Brown was asked to become priest in charge at Antrobus whilst remaining Vicar of Great Budworth. Alec has experience in running fund raising activities for church repairs and has been invaluable to Antrobus and his encouragement of the village to support the repairs has been well received. As Rural Dean, Alec is stretched in many directions but we have benefitted from his enthusiasm in getting the work on St. Marks's done.

This is an encouraging position for St. Mark's Church, especially compared to Revd. David Johnson's time when some thought the church would close in the 21st Century.

In 2014 we were very pleased to welcome the Rev. Susie Collingridge as an Assistant Priest. This makes the team at St. Mark's stronger than it has been for many years. We look forward to serving the village in many ways.

By Chris Taylor

COMMEMORATIVE BENCH



This was put on the corner of Knutsford Road and School Lane by The Rotary Club of Northwich Vale Royal, in memory of one of their members, John Corlett, who died in 2008, aged 73.

He had worked tirelessly for international friendship and made links between Antrobus and the former Soviet Union, particularly Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia. With his wife and a friend they had set up a charity, Georgian Social Relief Fund, which received much support from many people in Antrobus.

When he died, there was nobody who felt they could take over from him.

In both of those countries there is a great deal of corruption. Kidnapping is a very easy way to make money, making foreigners very vulnerable.

The Rotary club explained to the Parish Council that they would like to give the seat in memory of John and would be responsible for its maintenance. It has proved very popular especially with cyclists, who are frequently seen having a drink, ice cream or snack before continuing on their way.

If you would like to know the story of the Icon of St Mark in the Church, please look on the page about St. Mark's Church.

By Joy Corlett

COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN

The seeds for a Community Garden scheme were sown by the village environmental group Greener Antrobus. As a sub-committee of Parish Council, Greener Antrobus looked at ways of improving the sustainability of the village and improving its eco credentials. One of the ideas that was put forward was to create a vegetable and kitchen garden on an unused piece of land. It was never intended to be a traditional allotment scheme but an inclusive and social space where anyone from the village could participate in growing fresh food for themselves whilst being part of a wider group. We appealed for a piece of land that could be used for the purpose and whilst several areas were considered, it was the generosity of Evelyn Bolshaw that made it possible. And so it was that in the spring of 2011, with the help of a £1000 Parish Council grant, we purchased a polytunnel and started clearing our patch on Reed Lane.

It wasn't the easiest site – left unused for many years, pernicious weeds had taken hold and we later discovered large areas of buried rubble that remained from a former outbuilding. It also tended towards bogginess where it ran down to a large pond at the bottom. But we loved it! There are many wonderful things about the position, the first being that we have a stream running the length of the plot on the west side. This stream was a bonus in the early days when we had no means of collecting water and in primitive style we used to drop a watering can on a piece of rope, wait for it to fill and then haul it back up the bank. The proximity to Paynes Farm gives us security and enables Ann to pop round on a Saturday morning with a freshly baked cake for the gardeners!

From the outset, the drive behind the garden was to re-use, re-cycle and re-invent whatever we could. Not only did this policy stem from our Greener Antrobus roots and a desire to create a low impact project but aside from the Parish Council grant we knew we would have to be self-financing.

Having roughly cleared the field, the polytunnel duly arrived and on a scorching hot summer day, a hearty group gathered to put it up.



Once the polytunnel was in place, we had shelter and this meant we could meet even when the weather was not ideal. It wasn't long before a table was installed along with a gas stove. In fact before you knew it several tables had arrived – I've no idea where from and these actually formed the basis of our regular social gatherings. Although initially, the agreement with Evelyn was that anyone could work at the garden between 8.00am and 8.00pm on any day of the week, it soon became clear that we preferred working as a group so fairly early on, the idea of working parties emerged and these days we plan a couple a month, at weekends along with a Wednesday afternoon group. Of course, anyone can go whenever they want and as individuals have taken control of their own projects, they try and realise these whenever time allows.



Initially we cleared and slowly dug a bed at a time, edging each with whatever spare timber we could beg from locals. I can't quite remember the first crop we planted but for the first year we kept it simple and have expanded our repertoire each successive year. In the spring of 2013 we asked for donations to buy and plant fruit trees and as is usually the case, kind villagers were most forthcoming and by early summer we

had an orchard. A pond was another early project, largely dug as a means of helping to drain the land, but we have taken pleasure in watching the tadpoles appear each spring and the yellow flag iris always signals another year.

Last spring saw the completion of a donated greenhouse which is largely used for tomatoes as they seem to fare better in there than in the very humid polytunnel. However, in their place the polytunnel now grows heaps of squash, cucumbers, borlotti beans and a flourishing vine whose grapes were eaten for the first time last autumn. We grow our carrots in piles of discarded tyres and our salad leaves in fish crates. Our expenditure is really quite minimal, with surplus plants and vegetables being sold to raise funds for the following years seeds and compost. Pallets have been pressed into use in a variety of ways including an early compost bin as well as an over-engineered potting bench! We have recently installed our second recycled shed which thankfully will become our much needed kitchen, allowing the polytunnel to finally become nothing other than a place to grow things!

In summer 2014 we hosted our first open day with a popular tea tent and a variety of stalls. It was a fitting way to show the village what we had managed to achieve thanks to their help and also managed to raise much needed funds from plant sales and home made cake.



Now in our fourth year, the group has evolved. Members have joined and some have left due to time pressures. We have built on our strengths and overcome our weaknesses. This year we are growing a diverse range of crops from spaghetti squash and gherkins to cavolo nero and aubergines. By the amount of blossom on the trees it looks as though we might have our first proper harvest of fruit too. Our magnificent benefactors are too numerous to mention but they know who they are

and without them we would most certainly struggle – particularly when it comes to bigger projects like the recent land drain that we have needed to install.

We have learnt crop rotation, water collection and any number of necessary skills along with one or two gratuitous ones such as willow weaving, although this may be more useful when we finally manage to coppice some of our own willow. There are always new plans afoot, some more outrageous than others. There have long been murmurings about the benefits of a composting toilet and next year a steel cage is likely to be upcycled as the cobble filled base to a permanent picnic table.



The annual polytunnel dinner has become the social highlight of the year and the culmination of the main growing season. We have seen vertiginous heels and dinner jackets grace this glamorous event and have dined heartily on three or four course meals cooked from the product of our labours.

Embracing technological advances, we are now on facebook and before long, may well be tweeting too!



By Jenni Pemberton

THE ANTROBUS COMMUNITY SHOP ASSOCIATION LIMITED



From an original watercolour by Gordon Wilkinson

Antrobus Village Shop and Post Office was owned and run by the Collins family for many years, but gradually the shop reduced in size until it finally closed in mid 2002. The Post Office continued but Trevor and Sandra Collins gave this up in late 2002 and an interim postmaster from Comberbach was appointed by the Post Office.

The Parish Council was very concerned about the situation and decided to call a public meeting. The first meeting was held at the village hall in late January 2003. Nobody at the meeting showed any interest in taking on either business but Trevor Collins did say that he would be prepared to lease the premises. From the floor of the meeting came the idea of a Community Shop. A second public meeting was held and the Parish Council chairman reported on the Council's findings relating to Community Shops. After discussions a steering committee was formed, made up of seven people who would take the project forward.

How was the project to be financed, how much money could be raised locally? The initial funding came from our own Parish Council but the main source came from selling £10 shares in the new business. This generated just over 100 share holders and along with donations, loans, local and central government grants, the working capital was in place.

The business was finally set up as the Antrobus Community Shop Association Limited, open seven days a week, with the Post Office being run independently and open four hours per day Monday to Thursday.

On the Sunday afternoon of 22nd November 2003 a pre-opening wine and nibbles party was held in the shop. Everyone was welcome and the shop was packed all afternoon.



The constitution of the Antrobus Community Shop is that any profits are returned to the community and over the years numerous donations have been made to various community activities.

In 2010 and 2012 the Community Shop were the North West Winners in the Countryside Alliance Awards and a trip to the House of Lords and Downing Street was enjoyed by members of the shop team.

In 2012 the shop suffered from flash floods which resulted in the shop and post office being flooded out twice, but the help of the village community meant that the shop was soon up and running again.

The Committee of eight (all but one being involved from the start) along with around 10 volunteers ensure that the shop is still open seven days a week.

The Antrobus Community Shop and its partner the Post Office, still run by Maggie Pinfold, have now been open for ten years and this fully justifies the

original objective of re-opening the village shop and securing the future of the post office.

The Shop Committee consists of:-

Chairman – Mike Barker, Secretary – Irene Barker, Treasurer – Enid Justin.

and Committee Members:- Kath Hankey, Rita Harrison, Carol Bunn,

Tom Rushton, Sue Lawless.

Village Shop Meal for Volunteers and Partners



FRANDLEY QUAKER MEETING HOUSE



In 2000 the former stabling area, attached to the back of the Schoolroom, was converted into a good-sized accessible meeting/function room overlooking the garden. At the same time the kitchen area was greatly improved. Later, the Meeting House porch was removed following storm damage and a wheelchair ramp added. Since 2010 several pieces of work have been carried out inside the main Meeting House to ensure it is warm and welcoming , whilst retaining its sense of simplicity. The seating is now a flexible mix of pews and chairs in the round, in keeping with Quaker values of equality and inclusiveness.

Frandley holds weekly Meetings for Worship , open to all, on Sundays at 10.30 , with a thriving Children's Meeting at the same time. Quaker Meetings for Worship are based on stillness, and out of the experience of silent worship together, one or more of those present may speak, simply, words of ministry which come to them. The Children's Meeting has a programme of activities to foster peace, wonder and enquiry, and the children join the rest of the adults for a portion of the hour. Frandley continues to attract both occasional and regular attendees who find the simple yet

radical approach to spiritual journeying both supportive and challenging. People come to Frandley from the Northwich, Knutsford and Runcorn areas and sometimes more widely, as well as from the local villages.

The buildings are used for other Quaker events such as East Cheshire Quaker Area Meetings and learning and practical events. Quaker marriages are celebrated here with great joy. Memorial meetings take place, and sometimes ashes are interred in the Meeting House grounds.

The buildings are also hired out, for example for church groups looking for a setting for quiet days and retreats. In September 2014 the Antrobus Pre-school relocated to the Schoolroom.

Quakers live out their faith actively in society, and our spiritual experience pushes us particularly towards working for equality and justice, integrity, peace-building, simplicity and sustainability. Frandley Quakers are active in a number of professions and voluntary roles both locally and nationally. Within the village, there are links with the school such as through school assemblies, and we also organise social events, often as charity fundraisers, such as pancake parties. More generally, we look to be a supportive part of the local community.

By Gill Alcock

FRIENDSHIP CLUB



Since the last book was written, the Club has continued to meet in the Village Hall, although now we meet on the first Wednesday in the month at 2pm.

Over the years we've had outings to Llandudno, the Candle Factory and Garden Centres, but these have now been curtailed due to the cost of hiring coaches.

We have had numerous talks and film shows, for example from people visiting the UK from Canada and Belarus and from Georgian refugees. Speakers from nearer to home include a local doctor. Craft afternoons which have included card making have also been held

Members also like to go out for a meal and we have been most fortunate to be invited to local houses to view the gardens, where we have enjoyed wonderful afternoon teas, which are always appreciated.

Our August meeting is always held at Greenfield Farm.

Whenever possible our Birthday Lunch is held locally and was most recently held in the small room at the Village Hall and catered for by local villagers.

Membership has fluctuated over the years from 20 plus to as few as in the teens. A lot of the members are now over 80 (having been members since its commencement) and need transport to and from the hall.

More recently younger people in the village have joined. We hope it will continue, I for one would be very disappointed if it folded.

By Phyllis Brookes

JUBILEE PLAYGROUND

Late in the year 2000 the Parish Council was approached by three young mothers, Inge Cosgrove, Claire Lofthouse and Seona Reilly saying that the village needed a play area for young children. The Parish Council took some persuading that the scheme was viable because this matter had been considered previously and many potential problems such as funding, insurance, maintenance and coming to an arrangement with the Village Hall had to be overcome. However, Inge, Claire and Seona had been very thorough and persuasive in presenting their case and the Parish Council decided to form a playground committee to take the project forward.

The playground committee entered into discussions with Groundwork Macclesfield and Vale Royal who would manage the project on the council's behalf and with the Village Hall Committee who were most co-operative and offered the area in the village field where the playground is now sited. After a risk assessment Groundwork reported that a ditch adjacent to the site would have to be culverted and this would add to the cost of the project.

The local junior school children were consulted as to what playground equipment they would like, rather than it be chosen for them by adults. A plan for the scheme was drawn up by a specialist architect, Kathryn Berry. The estimated cost for the scheme came out at £48,000, which was considerably more than the £19,000 we had estimated as laymen, but Groundwork was confident this money could be raised through funding agencies.

In June 2001 a public meeting was held in the village hall to explain the project. Plans for the playground and the results of the children's survey were presented. The meeting was told by Ernie Wright (Chairman of the parish Council) that the Council was committed to spend £500 towards the scheme but the balance should be able to be raised by grants from various funding agencies. The public was enthusiastic towards the project and wished the Council well.

Now the hard work began. At this stage we had £500 Parish Council money and £230 raised by Inge, Claire and Seona, the target was £48,000. Applications were made to several agencies and there was jubilation when

the first acceptance came through from Manchester Airport Community Trust fund who granted £5,000. We were on our way but there were rejections because we did not meet the criteria of particular agencies. This would in the main be because we were not an urban district and do not have crime, race or drug problems in our village. By early 2002 we had received further funding from the following:-

Our own Fete Committee kindly contributed £400

WREN Landfill Tax £14,050

Barclay's Sitesavers £10,000

This still left a considerable shortfall and we were running out of sources to apply to. In February we made contact with the Cheshire Community Council to ask about the possibility of applying for funds through the Countryside Agency Vital Villages Scheme. Ray Dodds of the Community Council was most helpful. He said that it would be unusual for them to grant money for such a project but it would be worth a try. Inge completed the necessary forms, Ray looked through the application and said it was fine and a couple of months later we heard we had been successful. We had been granted £18,500, we were now fully funded!!

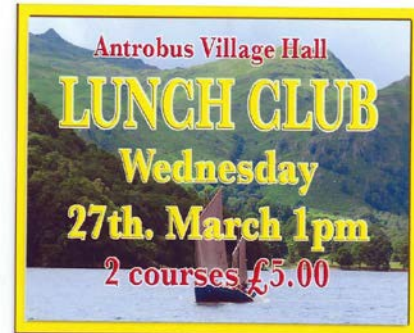
Kathryn Berry, the project architect had produced a first class plan and tenders were now sent out to contractors. Unfortunately the tenders came back over budget but after consultations savings could be made without any detriment to the playground.

Work finally started in late summer 2002 and we were able to officially open our Jubilee Playground in mid December 2002, just before the end of the Jubilee year.

By Mike Barker

LUNCH CLUB

In 2007 the Supper Club was a very successful fund raising and social event in the village. Some members of the Village Hall Committee began to feel that perhaps it would be nice to run a Lunch Club for the older members of the community who perhaps didn't wish to go out at night.



The Calor Village of the Year competition provided the push that was needed to put the plans into action. Part of the presentation to the judges was to display what was produced in the village. At that time there was a bake house just off Knutsford Road run by the Harrison family. They very kindly provided a wonderful display of their wares for the competition. Pork pies, sausage rolls and cream cakes which all looked truly delicious. The Friendship Club had been particularly helpful on that day, as they all turned out to prove to the judges what an amazingly vibrant village they lived in.

When the judges had left, the members were some of the last to leave the hall and it seemed a great pity for the beautiful pies to be sent back, surely they wouldn't be able to sell them. And so, we all sat down and ate the pies, and the sausage rolls and even the cream cakes. A thoroughly good time was had by one and all and it became obvious that a Lunch Club would be well attended and greatly appreciated, and so it began and has continued successfully since that time. It can only be said that the success of the club is due in great part to the dedication and great cooking skills of all the volunteers who help to run the event.

The Lunch Club has always been run by volunteers and until recently they shopped, cooked, laid the tables and even washed up. We now have some help in the kitchen and with the washing up. The Club is very well attended and meals are provided at a cost of £5 (2015) for around 60 people. Two courses are cooked with a choice of main course and a good selection of desserts. The club was never intended to make a profit but it always manages to buy the Christmas gifts for the children at the Christmas Market's Father Christmas grotto.

METHODIST CHAPEL 2000 to 2015



The Chapel continues to thrive with a committed group of approximately 20 members with regular Sunday evening worship at 6:30pm and once a month joining in a United Service with St Mark's Church. The Chapel welcomes villagers and friends anytime but especially to Special Services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and to many regular events through the year such as Jumble Sale, Book Sale, Men's Weekend with Saturday entertainment, Sunday service and Carol Singing led by Kathleen Hankey. We alternate bi-annually Mothering Sunday and Fete Services with St Mark's Church. Sunday 7th May 2006 saw our 70 years anniversary of this particular building.

Although a small chapel in a wide Methodist community we have seen some changes over the time, joining up for a short time with the larger chapel at Stockton Heath to see if Church Partnerships could assist and then back to running separately as a small rural chapel. The Chapel was in the Warrington Methodist Circuit. Around 2010, due to economies of scale, we became part of the wider Sankey Valley Circuit – we are the most southern chapel in this group and maybe the most rural!

The year 2000 saw Rev David Woosley move on and Rev Asif Das became our minister. In 2005 Rev Sally Ratcliffe came to Antrobus for one year before Rev Mark Coles joined as our Minister in 2006 and is still with us today.

Most members have held roles in the church for many years. Our organists were mentioned in the first book and both started playing in chapel before they were teenagers – Dorothy Martin played for 55 years until 2003 and Evelyn Bolshaw for 75 years until 2015. Stewards and Treasurers have served for many years – roles tend to be a vocation for life! The building is still very much maintained by our own members. Although we are a ‘mature’ membership there is no less enthusiasm today for maintaining a Christian presence and providing support in the village community.

Senior Church Steward – Roy Pitchfork

As at July 2015

Church Treasurer – Philip Wilkinson

Church Secretary & Worship Leader – Ann Bolshaw

Other Stewards:

Gordon Bennett, Anita Chapman, Richard Howman, Jean Wilkinson

By Ann Bolshaw

NURSERY AT FRANDLEY



The pre-school has continued to thrive and grow well into the 21st century, rising to meet each obstacle that has come along and providing outstanding care and education to the children of Antrobus.

In 2013 Antrobus School decided to start their own nursery within the school itself so the nursery had to move again, this time into the Quaker Schoolroom in Frandley. This is a beautiful setting where the nursery can still be very much part of the village and community offering care to a small number of children from the area aged 6 months to school age.

By Janet Haworth

PANTOMIME



Antrobus pantomime was started in the autumn of 2010 to raise money for the Leukaemia facilities in Liverpool where Paul Sutton was being treated. Regrettably, Paul never saw the show, but we raised over £3,000 for the charity that year, with our version of 'Ali Baba and the 10 Thieves', and we have continued to donate to the Chester branch of Leukaemia Research each year.



Our first Pantomime was a leap of faith for all concerned, more than 90% of the performers had never been on stage before and the front of house and back stage staff had an equally steep learning curve.



It takes around 60 people to put on the show each year and amazingly many of the original cast and crew are still with us, as we launch into preparing for our 6th Pantomime in 2016.

Our performances so far have been :

2011	Ali Baba
2012	Puss in Boots
2013	Cinderella
2014	Aladdin
2015	Jack and the Beanstalk

By Janet Featonby

PARISH COUNCIL

Each March the Chairman of the Parish Council presents an Annual Report outlining the work of the Council. Some issues such as highways, planning, the setting of the precept and the Chairman's Charity Dance are covered each year. Other years include unique events. The reports have been used to compile a summary of the work of the Council between 2000 and 2014.

Chairmen 2000 - 2015.

1998 - 2000 Coni Sutton.	2006 - 2008 Ray Lawton.	2014 - Phil Pugh.
2000 - 2002 Ernie Wright.	2008 - 2010 Deborah Hodd.	
2002 - 2004 Mike Barker.	2010 - 2012 Nigel Pemberton.	
2004 - 2006 Ann Barlow.	2012 - 2014 Paul Harrison.	

Chairmen are elected and take office at the May meeting.

Clerks during this period: Carol Kinsey, Inge Cosgrove, Sue Richards,
Simon Palmer.

Between 2000 and 2015 four councillors who had each served for over 25 years resigned or did not seek re-election, Ann Barlow, Ray Lawton, Roy Read and Coni Sutton. Coni was the first woman to become an Antrobus Councillor and Chairman and served for 47 years.

Other councillors who resigned or did not seek re-election during this period were Christine Ashall, Mike Barker, Karen Bolshaw, John Corlett, Deborah Hodd, Ernie Hodgkinson, Ron Mounfield, Kate O'Donnell, Nigel Pemberton, Chris Tratalos and Ernie Wright.

To mark the Millennium in 2000 a wall clock was purchased and hung in the Village Hall. The millennium oak tree was planted on Knutsford Road. Improvements were made to the junction of School Lane and Knutsford Road by planting flowers, shrubs and a beech hedge. A new flagpole was installed in the centre of the village. A time capsule, filled with items that depicted life in Antrobus in the year 2000, was prepared with the intention of building it into the new extension of the Village Hall.

Road safety was raised at a meeting in February 2000. About seventy parishioners attended the meeting. It was again raised as an issue in the Parish Plan. Eventually speed reduction markings were improved at four principal entrances to the village

centre. For a short period of time SID (speed indicator device) was used on Knutsford Road. The Parish Council supported the local authority in its efforts to make the A559 a safer road, especially at its junction with Knutsford Road. One problem raised in a number of reports is the thoughtless and sometimes dangerous parking of cars.

In the report for the year ending March 2001 it was noted that the Chairman's Dance had to be cancelled due to restrictions to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth disease.

The Parish Council put forward the provision of a playground as a project to be taken forward by Groundwork. They later agreed to donate £500 and to pay for all inspections. The Jubilee Playground on the Village Hall field was finally opened on 12th December 2002 and the final payment made in March 2004. It has been well used over the years. In 2014/15 the Parish Council carried out a process of consultation with villagers and the Village Hall Committee. A questionnaire was circulated in the Village News in the summer of 2015 to assess how the playground might be further developed.

Notification was received that Flash Lane had been officially recognised as an ancient highway and Vale Royal Borough Council instructed to reinstate it as a bridle path.

The report for the year ending March 2002 notes that a request to Cheshire Highways Department was made for a footpath from the Village Hall on Knutsford Road to School Lane. Safety of pedestrians to and from the playground was given as the reason for need. It was approved but took much longer to complete than expected due to the necessary replacement of overhead cables and the supporting poles. As a result of this Cheshire County Council decided that it was necessary to replace the existing street light units and put together a design to improve the lighting in the centre of the village at no cost to the Parish Council. Although there were some comments that this made the centre of the village less rural in appearance the scheme met with general approval because of the increased safety obtained.

The report also states that following much communication with the Highways department regarding flooding and blocked drains in the village it's hoped the problem is resolved. However, the autumn of 2002 saw School Lane being

excavated on several occasions in an attempt to eliminate the flooding of the Village Hall field. Pieces of pipe were replaced and it was noted that time would tell if the action taken would solve the problem.



Flooding, caused by the heavy rains of 2013 created damage and danger across the whole of Antrobus. The village centre and other areas were flooded for lengthy



periods. Local people worked with emergency services to protect both health and property. The report for 2014 states that despite the advice of local farm drain experts that flooding was caused by a short length of drainage pipe in the centre of the village, the Local Authority refused to enlarge it. After 18 months of continuous pressure by the Parish Council the Authority agreed to full surveys, which supported the advice given. The work was finally completed.

Because of this and other supportive work on field drains, it is hoped that flooding in the village centre is now a thing of the past.

In 2002 a donation of £500 was given by the Parish Council to the Village Hall Committee for the Jubilee celebrations.

Mike Barker, Chairman of the Parish Council, represented the Parish Council and the village at three civic events. These were, the Mayor of Vale Royal's Golden Jubilee church service,

the Queen's Golden Jubilee visit to Cheshire held at King's School, Macclesfield and the Cheshire County Council Civic Service at Chester Cathedral.



June and July 2002 meetings included two motions transferring parcels of land from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Committee. The reasons for this came about when drawing up the lease for the Playground. The transfer of one of the parcels of land was straightforward. The second transfer took place in March 2004. This means the Parish Council no longer owns any land.

A public meeting was held in January 2003 about the future of the Post Office and the shop. About 60 people attended. In discussions following the meeting it was thought by some that a community shop would probably attract reasonable support. A month later a further meeting was held and a steering committee of eight people was elected to take forward a community shop project. The Parish Council donated £300 towards start up costs. In 2015 the shop and Post Office are still open for business.

In November 2003 a committee was appointed to write a grant application for the writing of a Parish Plan. This was successful. A questionnaire was compiled and distributed to every household in the village, then the Parish Plan written and published. It was adopted by the Parish Council in September 2005.

The report for 2004 noted proposed changes coming from central government. Councillors attended several meetings in relation to possible boundary changes should the proposed Referendum decide in favour of a Regional Assembly. The Parish Council was in favour of a no vote. Should there be a yes vote the Council indicated that they would prefer to be in a newly constituted Mid Cheshire Authority and be attached to Northwich in any localised structure.

Each year the Parish Council enters various categories in the Community Pride Competition with varying success. The report for 2005 noted that the Community Shop won the Community Project Award for Vale Royal District.

The report for 2006 stated that we were runners up in the Cheshire Vibrant Village Competition 2005. For this achievement we received a framed certificate and a cheque for £75 from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. In 2006, as a result of much hard work, Antrobus entered and won the Cheshire Village of the Year Award which meant that we became the Cheshire entry for the national Calor Village of the Year Competition. There are a number of certificates in the Village Hall and shop and

plaques on a street light standard in the centre of the village showing our successes in the Community Pride Competition over the years.

Working towards achieving Quality Parish Council status a financial sub committee was formed, Standing Orders reviewed and two policies adopted, one on Complaints Procedure and another on grants to village organisations. The first quarter of an hour of Parish Council meetings became available for parishioners to talk to individual Councillors, or the whole Council, or examine plans. Quality Parish Status was granted in October 2006 and was reaccredited in 2011.

In the report for the year ending March 2007 it was stated that special meetings called by the Parish Council did not arise very often but the last year had been an exception. The planning applications for the Senna Green and Thellow Heath farms caused a great deal of concern and in the Parish Council's view were best dealt with by way of open meetings which would allow the views of villagers to be clearly expressed. Efforts to reject the plans were strongly made by both the Parish Council and the Peace Group. The plans for a poultry waste processing plant at Thellow Heath and an enabling application for residential development at Senna Green were refused in February 2009.

Unusually for Antrobus, issues of vandalism arose concerning the Playground which was closed on safety grounds for a number of weeks. There was serious damage to the equipment. The replacement parts when fitted came to a cost of £1500.

In the 2009 report tributes were paid to three former Parish Councillors who had died, Stan Owen, John Corlett and Jean Greenhough. They had all served the Parish Council in many capacities, each with their different skills and interests.

The Parish Council and the Clerk spent much of the year wrestling with the implications of and the new arrangements arising from the re-organisation of the Cheshire Authorities. Vale Royal Borough Council and Cheshire County Council were replaced by Cheshire West and Chester on April 1st 2009.



The Parish Council now have a live web site and a dedicated e-mail address for correspondence. They assisted in the development of a more efficient electronic system for circulating urgent Homewatch information to local residents. Where possible the Council has moved to electronic communication and with the agreement of the auditor has moved to computerised accounting.

Planning matters often created controversy and challenges including Fairbank Farm and Hatton Farm, now normally referred to as Applejacks. The Stretton Autodrome project was rejected in 2010.

The reporting and monitoring of potholes is a feature at many Parish Council meetings. The usual response is to loosely fill in the worst holes, with limited success. The Parish Council was therefore delighted to be given short notice in February 2011 that large areas of our more main roads were to be re-laid. However, they did miss an area of Knutsford Road. The work in general proved unsatisfactory prompting more repairs and a new surface on a long stretch of Knutsford Road the following year.

In the 2011 report it was noted that crime waves do not normally occur in Antrobus but there had been a plethora of offences mostly to do with metal and livestock thefts although barns and outbuildings had also been targeted.

The Communications Group produced and distributed the "Antrobus Quick Reference Guide". They instigated a Cheshire FM broadcast on Antrobus by contacting village groups and helped choose and organise the six broadcasters to ensure that as many aspects of village life as possible were aired in the two hour Sunday morning broadcast.

Planning again dominated Council time, specifically an application to set up a Wholesale Plant Nursery submitted just before Christmas 2011. This united the whole village and the Keep Antrobus Special Campaign was formed. Following a Parish Council open afternoon and a Public Meeting attended by 127 people, all of whom voted against the application, the Parish Council objected to the application. Subsequently the application was rejected.

In summer 2011 the Greener Antrobus Group was formed as part of the Council. It followed ideas to start a "Community Allotment". Land to make this possible is kindly licensed to the Council by Mrs Evelyn Bolshaw.

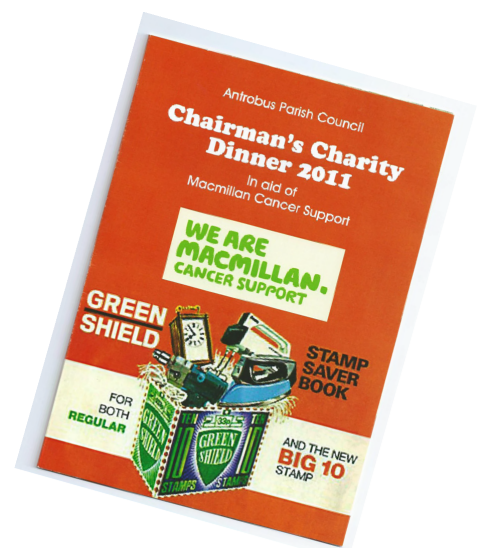
In the 2013 report it was noted that the Council had formed a partnership with Cheshire East and West Authority. The partnership tried to obtain a grant from the Rural Community Broadband Fund. The 2014 report noted that the Antrobus-Arley area had been left out of the general roll out of super-fast fibre-optic broadband, on the grounds of cost of installation in a rural area.

The Council, supported by villagers and other rural areas submitted an application for additional government funding. A grant of £643,000 was approved for rural areas across Cheshire. The Council will be involved in how the money is used.

Two Councillors have been trained to use and teach Heart-start techniques. Two training events have taken place and a machine is now sited at the front of the Village Hall.

Over the years the Parish Council has supported many charities from the proceeds of the Chairman's Dance. Grants have also been made to village organisations. Councillors take part in Village events as the Fete, the Remembrance Day Service, and village celebrations of national events.

The following projects have a separate entry, the Playground, Shop, Parish Plan, Calor Village of the Year and the Community Kitchen Garden.



Parish Council 2005



Parish Council 2015.

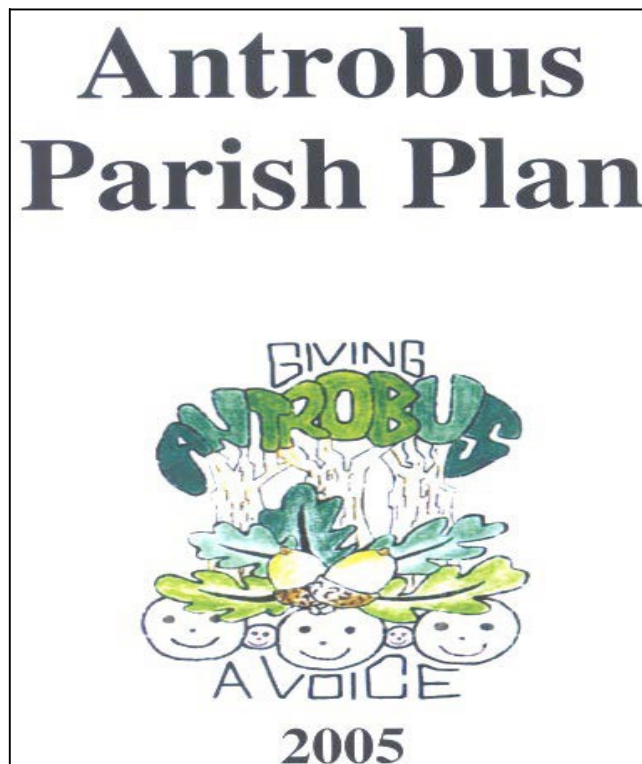


Chairman: Phil Pugh.
Vice Chairman: Roger Sutton.
Councillors: Stephen Barker, Simon Batey, Carol Bunn, Andrew Dunkley.
Victoria Gallimore, Paul Harrison, Chris Wright
Clerk: Simon Palmer.

By Ann Barlow and Paul Harrison.

PARISH PLAN

In 2003 the Parish Council decided to apply to The Countryside Agency for a grant to produce a Parish Plan. A public meeting was held in November 2003 for residents and representatives of village groups and organisations. A steering committee was formed to complete and submit the grant application form. The grant was awarded at the end of June 2004 and the Antrobus Parish Plan Co-ordinating Committee, under the Chairmanship of Tim Levers, was formed to produce a questionnaire and develop a Parish Plan.



To gather together the wishes and concerns of all residents they were invited to a drop in day at the Village Hall. The day was well attended and stimulated much interest. A logo and the heading "Giving Antrobus a Voice" were adopted. Amongst issues raised were the enforcement of speed limits, parking outside school, the improvement of road drainage and hedge/verge cutting to be in tune with wildlife.

A questionnaire was drawn up and delivered to every house on the electoral register, there was a separate youth questionnaire for those aged between 8 and 16. 307 questionnaires were posted and 147 returned. One interesting fact that emerged, those who completed the questionnaire owned 293 cars an average of 2.14 cars per

household. Only 270 people had a driving licence, so there were 23 spare cars. There were also 210 bicycles in the village.

The results of the questionnaires were analysed, a slow and laborious task.

The Parish Plan was written with eight headings, Leisure, Social and Community, Economic, General, Services, Land and Environment, Traffic and Youth. Action plans were produced for each section.

At the September 2005 meeting Antrobus Parish Council unanimously agreed to adopt the plan. The plan was published and delivered to every household. An evening meeting attended by residents, the Mayor of Vale Royal and members of Cheshire Community Council was held in the Village Hall to launch the plan. Following that, a team of people agreed to form a group to implement the Action Plans. Some successes were achieved such as the setting up of the Antrobus website, traffic calming measures and the formation of the Antrobus for Youth group

Two Parish Plan implementation grants, each for £3000, were successfully applied for, the first for chairs for the Village Hall, the second for a hearing loop system and other audio equipment for St. Mark's Church.

Members of the Parish Plan Co-ordinating Committee.

Chair: Tim Levers.	Evelyn Bolshaw.	Meryl Phillips.
Vice Chair: Sharon Powell.	Mike Edwards.	Natasha Rennie.
Treasurer: Ken Whiston.	Laura Foster.	Coni Sutton.
Christine Ashall.	Grace Greenhough	Julia Young.
Ann Barlow.	Lesley Kenny.	

By Ann Barlow

POST OFFICE

A day at the Post Office.

My post office is supposed to open at 8.30am every Monday to Thursday. I only live four miles and two villages away. My excuses are varied and imaginative for my being late most mornings. Over the last eleven years I have built up a great relationship with my regular customers.



So when I do arrive normally five to ten minutes late, my counter regularly has post left with little notes and instructions.

My office is approximately a two metre square within the community shop, with old fittings on the verge of failing and dim lights so my customers have to squint to see me through my glass security screen. I am supposed to be locked in and sealed tight against the hordes of robbers and thieves. But I leave my door open to chat to who ever is on duty in the shop, and together with our customers spend a good amount of time putting the world to rights.

Within minutes of arriving, I usually misplace my keys, I hang up my multitude of post bags, as the post is now sorted by shape and size and weight. Some days I end up with several bags sealed with ties and labels, with only a couple of items in each.

On school days I tend to have a little rush, normally home shopping returns. Mostly parents returning their offspring online shopping or eBay sales. I have days when I get quite a lot of post, usually after the weekend, and others when I am more like a little bank, normally Thursdays ready for the weekend.

The post office is now a little bureaucratic hell with rules and regulations, asking customers if they are posting bombs or body parts even god forbid "nail varnish". You can send two litre bottles of whisky, but four miniatures are prohibited?? Identity is another story. You could have lived in the village for ninety years, but if you don't have a passport, banking cards, driving license you don't exist. On forms they now have boxes so you can tell them where your money comes from, nobody has put money laundering and

prostitution yet. They always tell me the truth!!! As long as the right boxes are ticked.

I finish at 12.30pm and it's surprising how many customers come in minutes after, but my philosophy is if I'm there I will always serve them. So I don't feel bad about those minutes I am late every morning

By Maggie Pinfold

ROSE QUEEN FETE

The Rose Queen Fete is held on the first Saturday in July on the Village Hall field and has followed a different theme each year, usually a topical one. This year was 'American Independence Day' and others have been 'Highland Games' and 'Back to the 50's'



The current chairperson is Christina Millachip who is supported by a very hardworking and creative committee who put in many long hours to organise all the entertainment, games and stalls on the field. On the day itself a large number of volunteers help make it a very successful afternoon of family fun. The profits that are made are donated to charities, community groups and to putting on a party for the 'Over 60's' which is held in the Village Hall



ANTROBUS ROSE QUEEN

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>CROWNED BY</u>
2000	Ayesha Myers	Dorothy Taylor
2001	Emily Dyson	Hilary Howman
2002	Laura Foster	Joy Corlett
2003	Rachel Street	Janet Mounfield
2004	Hannah Shakeshaft	Barbara Wright
2005	Charlotte Harris	Susan Yeoman
2006	Tasha Plumb	Roy Read
2007	Freya Sutton	Kathleen Wilkinson
2008	Hannah Bordessa	Jane Schofield
2009	Lucy Bolshaw	Len Martin
2010	Victoria Hebblethwaite	Meryl Phillips
2011	Sophie Foster	Ron Mounfield
2012	Cara Scobie	Trevor Collins
2013	Lily Lofthouse	Sue Lawless
2014	Erin Bell	Phillip Wilkinson
2015	Amelia Bailey	Christopher Taylor



ST MARK'S CHURCH



From an original watercolour by Gordon Wilkinson

Vicars from 1999

1999	-	2007	David Johnson
2008	-	2012	Richard Diggle
2013	-	Present	Alec Brown

In 1992 a United Benefice of four churches was formed in Antrobus, Aston by Sutton, Little Leigh and Lower Whitley. When Richard Diggle moved on in 2012 the Diocese decided that the four churches should be reorganised and as a result in 2013 St Mark's is now linked with St Mary and All Saints Church, Great Budworth and Reverend Alec Brown is the Priest in Charge.

In September 2013 a two year appeal was launched to raise money for the re-roofing of the building and re-ordering of the interior to provide a new kitchen, toilet and storage area and the removal of some pews. As of July 2014 the work on the roof is well under way thanks to a grant from English Heritage and the generosity of the community, so this part of the project will be completed by the end of the year.



Please also refer to the Village Hall article on further fundraising for St Mark's.

By Jane Schofield

Update at end September 2015

Saturday 19th September saw the end of the two year Restoration Appeal which was launched in September, 2013, with two events – a barbeque on the field next to The Old Vicarage, by kind permission of the [REDACTED] family, and a visit to St Mark's by the Bishop of Chester, The Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster on Sunday 20th September for a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the end of the Appeal.

Both were most enjoyable, with fine weather, and the Bishop was very impressed with the work already undertaken and that which is still to be done – and would like to come back once the work is complete. Although the Appeal is formally over there is still about £20,000 to be raised to pay for all the work, so there will be some events over the next year or so and grant applications are in the process of being made. Altogether the Appeal has raised just over £70,000 in the two years (grants are in addition to this) and on behalf of the Parochial Church Council I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped, supported and contributed in any way. It has been hard work at times I know, but it has also been great fun – and the work which has been done and which is still to be undertaken will be our lasting legacy for the future, both of St Mark's itself and the community of Antrobus. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to have been part of this – thank you all.

By Reverend Alec Brown

**Antrobus St Mark's Roofing completed
February 2015**

GRAHAM HOLLAND ASSOCIATES

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View from south east



A detail of Spire



A detail of porch



View from north east

ST MARK'S CHURCH – GARDEN PARTY



St Mark's Church began holding a Summer Garden Party in the late 1980s. For the first few years the venue was Frandley Farm, home of [REDACTED] and then a few years later Greenfield Farm on Barbers Lane, home of [REDACTED], became the new venue until 2012.



Each Garden Party had an opener, a variety of stalls, a raffle and mouth watering refreshments plus games for the children and of course all took place in beautiful surroundings. In 2013 the Garden Party became a Summer Fair held at the Village Hall and in 2014 the venue was the Village School, both following the same format as always.

By Jane Schofield

Collection of Garden Party Photographs



ICON OF ST MARK in ST MARK'S CHURCH

You may wonder why an Icon which would normally be in the Georgian Orthodox Church in Tbilisi Georgia has an important place, close to the Altar in this Church.

One of our regular members, a member of the PCC and a committed Christian, John Corlett, forged links between the two Churches, whilst starting and running a Charity, (Georgian Social Relief Fund) and we each remembered the others in our prayers, as well as in a practical way. The Orthodox Churches have many icons and our Vicar; Rev. David Johnson asked



if there was a possibility that we might have one in our Church. The Orthodox Priest was delighted and organised for one to be specially painted for us. This was done in the traditional manner with each part of the painting and the artist having prayers said over them.

John died on 11th November 2008 and our link with Father Georgio and his congregation, died with him. The country is full of corruption, kidnapping and crime of all descriptions. Our Charity (which was registered with the Charity Commission), needed somebody prepared to spend a lot of time in Tbilisi and nobody was available.

Father Georgio was a remarkable man with seven children, who was very aware of the children without families living on the streets. He persuaded the members of his congregation to each take a child into their family through Baptism. As Godparents they would give the child some security, even though the child continued to live in an orphanage. Many of the children had one parent, but they were so poor they took them to an orphanage and left them there to be brought up.

By Joy Corlett

ST. MARK'S C.E. AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL - 2000 – 2015



During the past 15 years our village school has seen several changes but remains an integral and important part of village life. Following the departure of Head Teacher David Batchelor in July 2007 our Deputy Head Teacher, Heather Harris, took over the leadership of the school as Acting Head with Gail Fulbrook as Consultant Head. Mrs Lucy Kirby was appointed as our new Head Teacher from the beginning of the Summer Term in 2009. Mrs Jo. Hawkins was appointed Head Teacher from the Summer Term of 2013.

The school building has also seen several changes with the provision of an administration and reception area, a separate Head's office and an updated and purpose built Early Years room which has access to the comprehensive outside learning area. An all weather pitch, wild area, vegetable plot, Wendy house and an intriguing wild area are much used by the children within the playing field.

Ever conscious of environmental issues the school has invested in solar panels, smart meters and every effort is made to reduce our carbon footprint.

One of the biggest changes to the school has been the establishment of a pre-school nursery taking children from the age of 3. These children work alongside the Reception Class forming an excellent Early Years Foundation Stage.

We now have “wrap around care” with the advent of Breakfast Club and after school activities and clubs.

The children regularly take part in events such as the Big Sing and other locally organised ventures and without fail it is commented upon what marvellous ambassadors for our school they are. Links with the Village Community remain strong and volunteers from the village contribute in many ways to the life of our school. We are also fortunate to have the unstinting input of the Revd, Alec Brown, and Revd, Susie Collinridge from St. Mark's and the Revd. Mark Coles the Methodist Minister.

We hope for many years to come to live up to our School Motto of: Hand in hand with God, we live, love and learn together.

By Meryl Phillips, Chair of Governors.

HISTORY OF ANTROBUS VILLAGE HALL

In 1998 with the help of a Millennium grant offering 50% of funding we added a new entrance hall, cloakroom and toilets, including disabled facilities and a multi purpose room for around £100,000. This part of the building was ready January 1999.

The National Farmers Union held a national competition around aspects and facilities provided in village life. On 23rd July 2003 ten members of the village hall committee took the train to London to attend the NFU Awards Lunch at One George's Hall, where we were awarded third prize.

Part of the original wooden building was still standing all of this time. It needed to be demolished. So plans started to be hatched – again! We were ‘just adding a bit on.’



Looking at funding opportunities we decided to do it all ourselves – again! Thanks to the ‘Last of the Summer Wine Construction Company’ – 10 local, mostly retired gentleman who had been around helping when the original main hall was built in the 1970’s, and a fundraising group raising £27,000, we spent a total of £36,000 on a new lounge, an extension to the bar and cellar, more space in our stockroom, more toilets, an office and more car parking spaces.



At the same time we refurnished our kitchen from a WREN grant, bought new comfortable chairs and ended with a very sophisticated lounge area that officially opened on 21 February 2009.

On 9 October 2009 Mr Roy Read celebrated 25 years as our volunteer Bar Steward with a surprise lunch. He was convinced we were all ignoring this milestone, in spite of the hints he had already dropped. Talking of long service, Phyllis Brookes was the booking secretary for many years, ensuring everyone was kept in order!

Many major national events have been celebrated in the Village Hall, 50th anniversary of VE Day, May 1995, Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee in 2002 and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee in June 2012, 75th Anniversary of VE Day, when street parties and parades of Antrobus village life brings out the best in all of us. And some local significant events, such as when Maureen and John Platt met at the Youth Club, some 58 years ago.

Antrobus Village Hall is used for everything from Wedding Receptions to a Mums and Tots club. Most recently we have expanded our 'sports' facilities from the ever popular indoor short mat bowling to include table tennis and a pool table. The Village Hall

supports all the other groups within the village providing one free booking for each group per year, benefiting for example the Fete, Parish Council, School, Chapel and St Mark's Church. During 2013 a small sub-group of the Village Hall developed to fundraise for St Mark's Church with exotic, very successful events such as the Remembrance Day Lunch, where over £11,000 was raised, Big Boys Breakfast and Vintage Car Rally, a Venetian Masked dinner dance and in April 2015 a group of 6 men walked up 5 mountains in the Lake District and raised a staggering £28,000 between them.

Any excuse for a party so on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Antrobus Village Hall, 21st February 2014, we did just that, had a party. During 2015 the toilets were given a serious make over, along with the bar and a paint colour change throughout giving the hall a fresher and smarter look. A neighbour offered to sell an acre of land adjoining the field so the decision was taken to buy the land, so more fundraising was needed to fill up the coffers!

It is a great honour to have been involved with the village hall for so long, carrying on a family tradition, as my Grandfather was the first chairman. Both my father and mother have also served as Chairman and committee member for years; as have many other families in the village, the Wright's, the Mounfield's, the Hankey's, the Bolshaw's the Greenhough's , the Collins's, and many more. There have been great characters along the way also, already mentioned Roy Read, Reg Collins, Albert Lowe, Rose Owen and more recently Len and Pete with their 'coffee mornings' – and Sam, the dog.

There are literally hundreds of people who have contributed to the success of Antrobus Village Hall and I think everyone is very proud of the hall which encompasses the feeling of camaraderie in Antrobus.

By Heather Sutton,
Chairman Antrobus
Village Hall
1999 – Present day

VILLAGE NEWS



Since the year 2000, certain changes have come about regarding how the Village News is produced.

Items for inclusion each month used to be submitted in writing and passed to the editorial committee to type up and prepare for the relevant issue. With the advent of e-mail some years ago, most of the input now comes via the e-mail address editor@villagenews.antrobus.org.uk. Items are then prepared on computers and printed on a Ricoh Copy printer, which is basically an updated version of the old Gestetner duplicator that was used for many years. The addition of a collator also makes it easier to put each issue together.

The layout remains virtually the same as when the first issue was produced in 1982. It is still distributed free of charge to every house in Antrobus by a dedicated team of volunteers.

In 2010 we were joint runner up in the Best Community Newsletter awarded by Cheshire Community Action.

By Irene Barker (Editor)

WOMENS INSTITUTE

2015 is an exciting year for the Women's Institute, as it celebrates its Centenary. Founded in Canada in 1897, and followed by Great Britain in 1915 forming first in Anglesey, Antrobus W.I started in 1938. This year Antrobus will celebrate its 77th Birthday.

Many changes have been seen in the W.I over the 100 years, but the aims of the movement are still the same. On the latest Badge and any recognisable publicity the logo is shown as "The W.I inspiring Women".



Getting ready to walk in the procession at the Rose Fete 2012.

The organisation is led by the National Federation, and Antrobus is proud to be part of the Cheshire Federation.

We take part in the Cheshire Show every year. Members join in the competitions for craft, cake making, flower arranging, preserves and photography. Other members assist with running the catering side in the W.I marquee. Some of us assist with the stewarding of the stands to promote the W.I; others help with all the hard work that goes into the planning of the W.I marquee shown at its best to the public.

Antrobus W.I has 45 members of which an average of 35 meet together in the Village Hall once a month on the second Tuesday. We have a Darts Team and two Bowling Teams. Members meet to play scrabble and learn more about handicrafts, such as patchwork. We enjoy outings to places like Port Sunlight and trips to the theatre. Many of us have joined the computer age and enjoy the knowledge we can easily find through the internet. We join in village events, and every year help with catering at the Fete, and join in with the procession.



Cheshire Federation Chairman, Frances Woollam, presenting the W.I County Bowls Trophy to the Antrobus 2 team 2013

We will keep on going looking forward to our Centenary at Antrobus W.I and new members are always welcome.

By Margaret McDonald

BUILDINGS

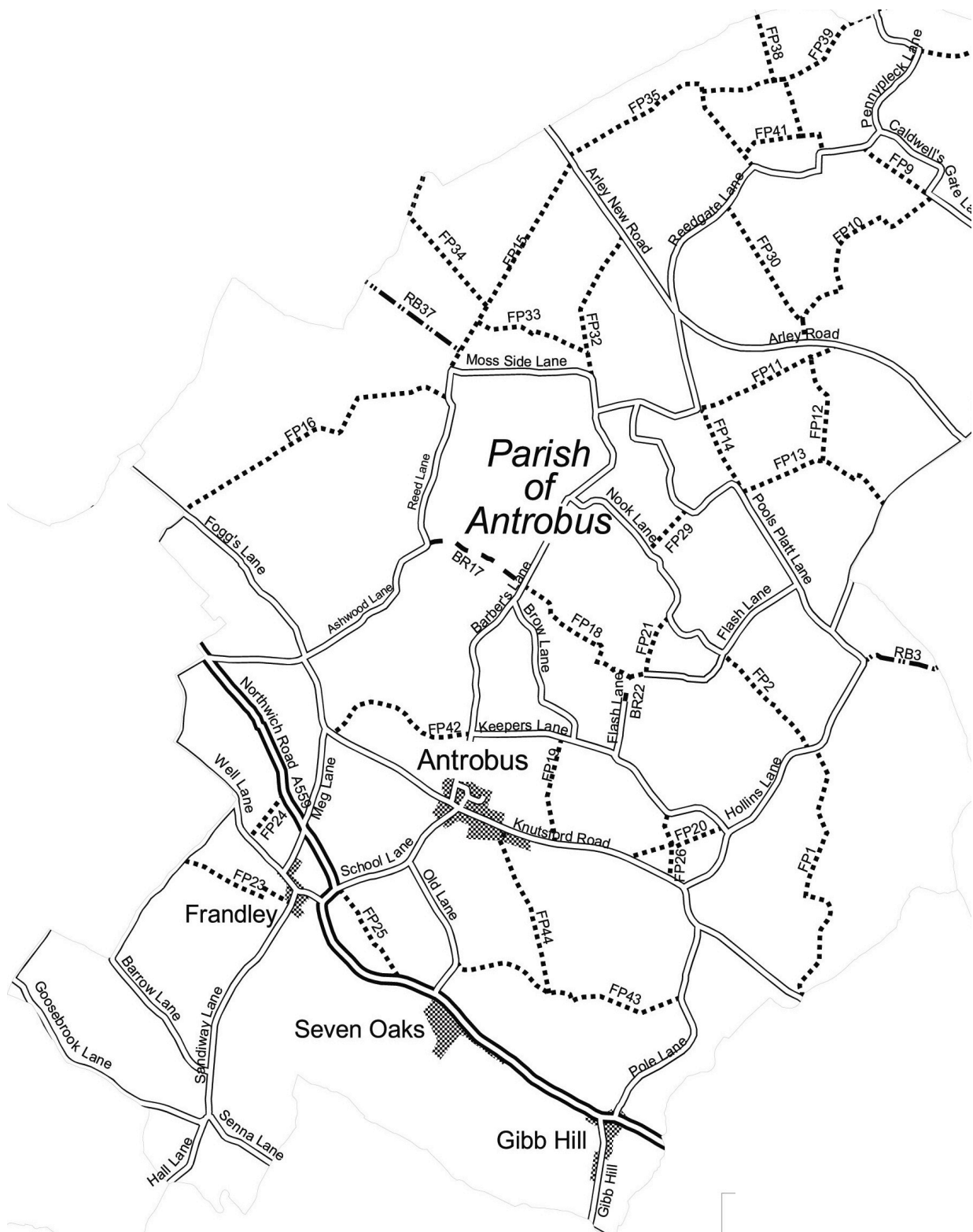
NEW - REBUILDS



PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN ANTROBUS

The objective of this exercise was to highlight major changes in living accommodation in Antrobus since the publication of the Heritage Book in 1999.

Derek Enfield



FIRTREE FARM off Pennypleck Lane



These units were built in 2003/04 by barn conversion [REDACTED].
They are let for varying periods to tourists and business people from Britain and further afield

FORMER SANDILANDS FARM SHANT, Reedgate Lane



The shant was converted to this bungalow in 2001 and is now called Sandilands Cottage. [REDACTED].

OAK VIEW, Moss Side Lane



Was built on the site of one of the former wooden buildings on the 'Moss' and occupied in 2010 [REDACTED]

LAUREL FARM, Reedgate lane



This home [REDACTED] was transformed externally by a complete makeover in 2013

MOSS SIDE FARM, Occupation Lane



A new house built for and occupied [REDACTED]

THE GRANARY, Occupation Lane



[REDACTED]. Built on the site of the Whitley Reed Farm dairy etc

WILDACRE FARM, Occupation Lane



The old house was demolished. [REDACTED] have lived in the new house since 2013.

RISING SAP, Sandy Lane



The house was started in June 1999 and finished/occupied in 2000 at Christmas. It is the site of Rising Sap Nursery [REDACTED]

GALEBROOK FARM, off Sandy lane



The original farmhouse has been retained, including the original brick window frames, but with a new roof and front door. A link was added to extend the house to connect into the barn. [REDACTED] during 2008.

GOOSEGATE, Reed Lane



This house was built by conversion of the barns at Paynes Farm in 2002 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HILL HOUSE, Barbers Lane



The house was built on the site of the old farm house [REDACTED]

HILL HOUSE BARNES, Barbers Lane



These barns were converted well before the house was finished [REDACTED]

WHEATFIELD COTTAGE, Foggs Lane



November 2010

FOGGS FARM, Foggs Lane



The left hand house, Shires End, was built in 2015

The right hand one, The Granary Barn, is part conversion part new

also in 2015

GOOSEBROOK FARM, Goosebrook Lane



The old farmhouse was demolished, rebuilt and finally occupied in 2005

STABLE GATE FARM, Goosebrook Lane



This is a new house

DOVE COTTAGE, Goosebrook Lane



A barn conversion, [REDACTED] since 2011

SWALLOW BARN, Goosebrook Lane



Unoccupied conversion

WEST BARN COTTAGE, Goosebrook Lane



GREEN HOLLOW, Hall Lane



new re-build in 2010

THE BARN, FOX FARM, Northwich Road



A conversion of the barns at Fox Farm, occupied in 2014

BROW FARM, Brow Lane



The old farmhouse was demolished and the new one occupied in 2014

COACHMANS COTTAGE, Pole Lane



The former cottage was demolished and this house built [REDACTED]

SCOTCH HALL, Scotch Lane



This new house was occupied in 2015 [REDACTED].
It is totally energy sufficient.

PENNYPLECK, Pennypleck Lane



Rebuilt 2007

THE BARNS AT MANLEY FARM Were converted in 2015

PEEL HALL

The house and barn have been renovated and altered in 2015

CROWLEY GREEN COTTAGE Barn conversions carried out

PARK FARM

A further house was built in the yard opposite the existing Farmhouse

Derek Enfield

ENVIRONMENT



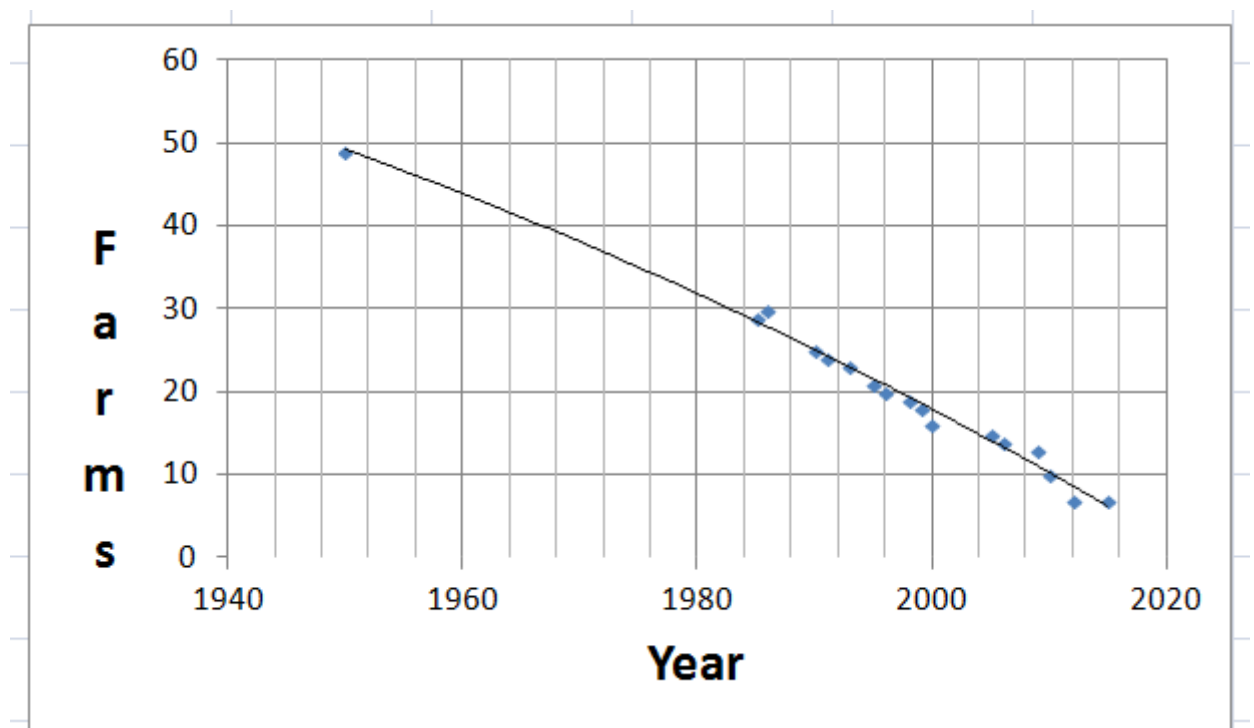
DECLINE OF FARMS IN ANTROBUS

Most people in Antrobus are aware that farming has changed over the passing years. Factors involved have been two World Wars, depression in the 1930, the change from horses to tractors, larger and larger implements needing more powerful tractors, costing more than many farmers could afford.

Mechanisation initially also meant not so many workers were required and later farmers could not pay wages to compete with other industries. Allied to this was the reluctance of many sons to take up farming. New legislation brought about by BSE, foot and mouth, high accident rates, declining wildlife has cost the farmer money to meet new national and E.E.C. regulations.

Changing tastes in the U.K. are typified by the differences in consumptions of potatoes and rice. Foods can be brought here from all over the world at modest cost.

It is now said that 200 acres or more are needed for one person to survive. Farmers can be proud of the increased productivity achieved over recent years but it looks as if mega investment and technology are needed to compete globally.



For this exercise the definition of a working farm was taken as

“Where the land and farmhouse are together, with an active farmer living in the house”.

By Derek Enfield and Dave Hankey

FLASH LANE RE- BORN

During the nineties horse riders used to go down what was locally called Bobs Lane and then , when it petered out, back again to Keepers Lane.

Collective discussion and highway knowledge led to Chris Thomson doing a comprehensive study of maps, including the Tithe Map of 1846 and the Highways Act 1980. The evidence showed Flash Lane ran from Keepers Lane to the end of Nook Lane and on then to the junction with Pools Platt Lane.

The evidence was presented to the Highways Authority, Cheshire County Council, but it soon became clear that nothing was to be done and Chris took the matter to the Magistrates Court. The Highways Officer used all sorts of spurious and untrue objections. The result though was that an Order was served on the Council to do the work within 3 months,

Again it raised all sorts of reasons for not complying. In the end Chris applied for a hearing at the County Court for an Order to commission and pay for the work himself. He would then claim reimbursement from the Council. The hearing was eventually arranged for 26th September 2003. The Order was not granted as miraculously the Council suddenly agreed to do the work and duly did so.

The result is a highway that enables riders, walkers and cyclists to use a whole variety of circular routes.



Vale Royal Magistrates' Court

Order to repair highway s.56(4) Highways Act 1980

To the Respondent, Cheshire County Council, County Hall, Chester.

Complaint having been made by Christopher John Thomson, of Oak Lodge, Barbers Lane, Antrobus, Northwich, that the highway known as Flash Lane, Antrobus, is a highway maintainable at public expense and is out of repair, and the justices, having found that the highway is so out of repair, Cheshire County Council, the Respondent, is hereby ordered to put the said highway in proper repair within three months, beginning on the date of this order.

Dated this 3rd day of August 2000.

Derek Enfield

ANTROBUS HERITAGE

The group was formed in 2000 by seven members of the original 17 who participated in the Local Heritage pilot study and produced the Antrobus book in 1999. The balance of the original grant funds was transferred to it from the Antrobus W.I. account and it is still self supporting.

The objective of the group is to protect, record and develop the heritage of Antrobus Parish. The achievements so far are as follows.

Trees

A 5-year plan of planting British Native trees in the parish commenced in 2002 following a meeting with the Mersey Forest. This plan was presented to Antrobus Parish Council and was favourably received.

The first planting session took place in February 2003 and continued during March and April when the weather was favourable. At the end of the year Antrobus Heritage won the Cheshire Countryside, Environment and Wildlife Award. The prize was an engraved plaque, 3 native trees planted by Cheshire Landscape Trust and £250. This was very encouraging for our small group of six enthusiastic members. The plaque and trees are sited in Flash Lane.



Award Site, plaque and trees 2003



2013

The majority of the winter planting was completed at the end of 2007 and the current total is 268 planted, mostly bare-rooted and 212 surviving. The losses are due to horse damage, hedge/verge cutting and natural causes. Throughout every year a large amount of time has to be devoted to maintenance. We have now reached a position where we can no longer find planting sites that fit our criterion of being accessible to the general public

In this year Antrobus Heritage also won the Environment section of the Calor Village of the Year Award.

During the winter of 2007/8 we reinstated a 200m section of hedge on Footpath 42 (Barbers Lane to Knutsford Road) with mixed hedging and trees with the consent and help from the landowner. For this we were presented with the "Hedgerow and Tree Planting Award 2008" by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (C.P.R.E.) and the Cheshire Landscape Trust (C.L.T.).

That year Antrobus Heritage donated and installed a bird bath in Lowe crescent for the residents.

Wild flowers

In conjunction with the 5 year tree planting plan we started planting native wild flowers in appropriate places and at the same time we joined the Bluebell Recovery Project organised by the Mersey Forest.

The first planting started in March 2003 using plug plants and carried on into April. Bluebell seed was sown into trays and kept in a protected environment using seed provided by The Mersey Forest. To further this project we had permission from Lord Ashbrook to collect bluebell seed from the woods on the Arley Estate which was then sent to The Mersey Forest for distribution amongst other project members.

In excess of 600 plants have been put in along the edges of public footpaths so they can be enjoyed by the users. The majority were purchased plug plants with the remainder being either seed or cutting raised plants by the group. The main examples are primroses, bluebells, yarrow, tufted vetch, and teasel.

The primroses are thriving along Footpath 32 (Green Occy) off New Road and are best seen in April.

Nest boxes

In order to encourage birdlife and provide interest for walkers 15 nest boxes were installed along the Boyd Walk in 2008. Latest surveys have shown a take up of 12 boxes (80%)

The Boyd Walk



This walk was created originally for the Heritage book and in 2006/7 was upgraded by the installation of gates instead of stiles and the printing of several thousand leaflets detailing the route and information about Boyd and the parish.

This was instigated by the group and facilitated by John Gittins of the Cheshire Landscape Trust and Rights of Way staff at Cheshire County Council

Rights of Way

The group has always been involved in the Rights of Way network in Antrobus. Full surveys were carried out in the summers of 2002, 2010 and 2012 that all showed around 50% of paths were unusable by the general public. The main problems were crops growing on cross-field paths and headland paths not being maintained by the Highway Authority (Cheshire C.C. and now Cheshire West and Chester Council). Over the years hundreds of letters and e-mails have been exchanged about the state of public rights of way in Antrobus. In 2009 the group decided to try to improve the usability to over 90% by offering to help carry out maintenance work. The local officer initially provided waymarks that we erected around the parish but as we enquired about further work the Authority became less and less cooperative, to the point of not responding to our communications. We have since continued to report problems and attempted such clearance of undergrowth as we can manage.

The Authority has a statutory duty to maintain Public Rights of Way but the network is becoming less and less usable and it is ironic that after the beating of breasts over the effects of path closures during the foot and mouth outbreak, the production of glossy Rights of Way Improvement Plans and publication of a Guide to Public Paths problems and protocols that it should allow the network to deteriorate further.



Headland path blocked by undergrowth



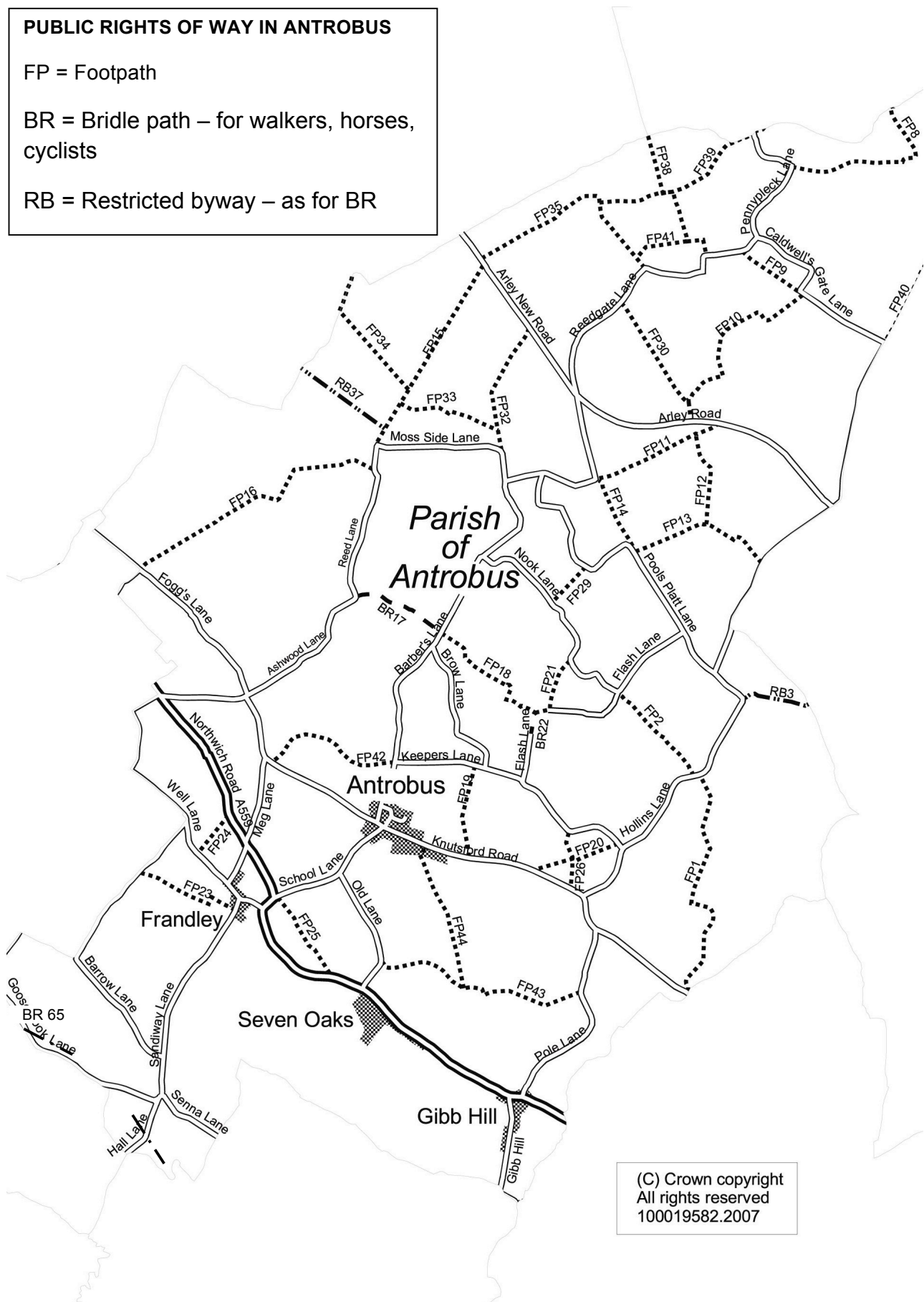
Cross-field path blocked by maize crop

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN ANTROBUS

FP = Footpath

BR = Bridle path – for walkers, horses, cyclists

RB = Restricted byway – as for BR



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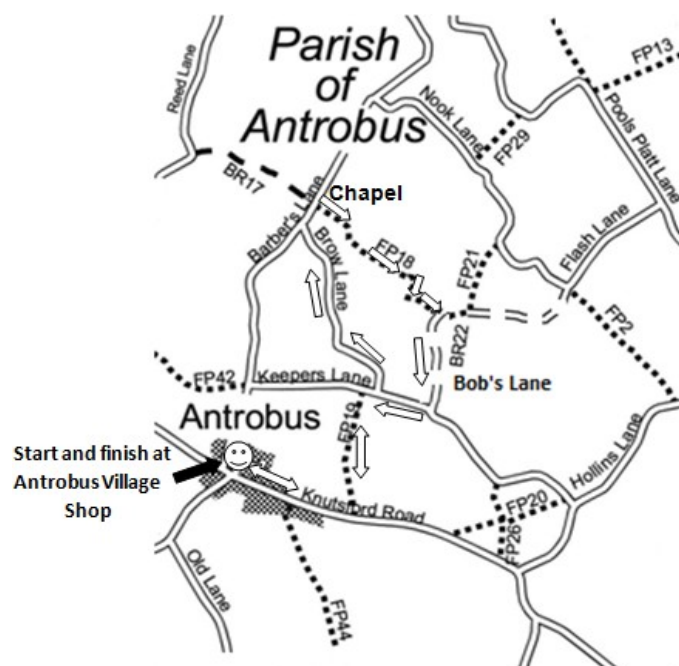
Parish Walks

Antrobus has one of the most comprehensive Right of Way (RoW) networks in the country as can be seen from the attached map. What better way to stay fit and healthy, and maybe catch up with friends and family or enjoy peaceful time alone, than by exploring the beautiful countryside and paths that surround your home? With this in mind, Antrobus Heritage has created eight walks to date for everyone to enjoy including the most well-known, The Boyd Walk. The official Boyd Walk leaflet is available in Antrobus Village Shop and additional walks will be published at intervals through the year in the Village News. It is anticipated that once enough walks have been collected, a small booklet will be produced and made available at a small charge to cover costs.

With paths so well distributed throughout the parish, you can also choose a route to suit your requirements; anything from short circulars starting at the Village Shop through to the more adventurous 2-3 hour Boyd Walk or even a ten mile tour of the parish! When you are next travelling through the Village, look out for the six footpath signs leading off Knutsford Road or the four off Barbers Lane. Why not follow them to discover more of this vast and varied Parish – and if you have children or a dog they will definitely have fun! The RoWs are a unique part of our magnificent heritage and are there for you to enjoy.

Chapel outing, below, is an example of an Antrobus Heritage Walk that has been printed in the Village News.

☺ **ANTROBUS AMBLES** ☺ “Chapel Outing” approx 1 hour/2.5km/1.5ml

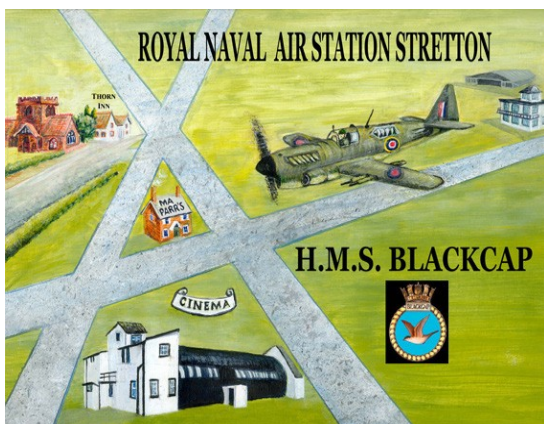


H.M.S. BLACKCAP

In 2002 we decided to make a record of the life of the former naval station at Appleton, officially known as Royal Naval Air Station, H.M.S. BLACKCAP. The reasons for doing so were that there was nothing in Warrington records library or in the Cheshire Records Office, original buildings were disappearing fast and former personnel of the station getting fewer. The radar station had been in Occupation Lane, Antrobus and many inhabitants were affected by the existence of the Station. We started collecting information from all over the world in 2002 and had it on sale in March 2005. Details of over 800 personnel had been obtained and information collected about every aspect of the Station with relevant photographs and documents. The book had 212 A4 pages and 200 photos.

A second book of 170 unused photos was compiled and went on sale in December 2005. Copies of both books were deposited in all local libraries and the Cheshire Records Office. Several deposits of documents, correspondence, photos have been made to the latter.

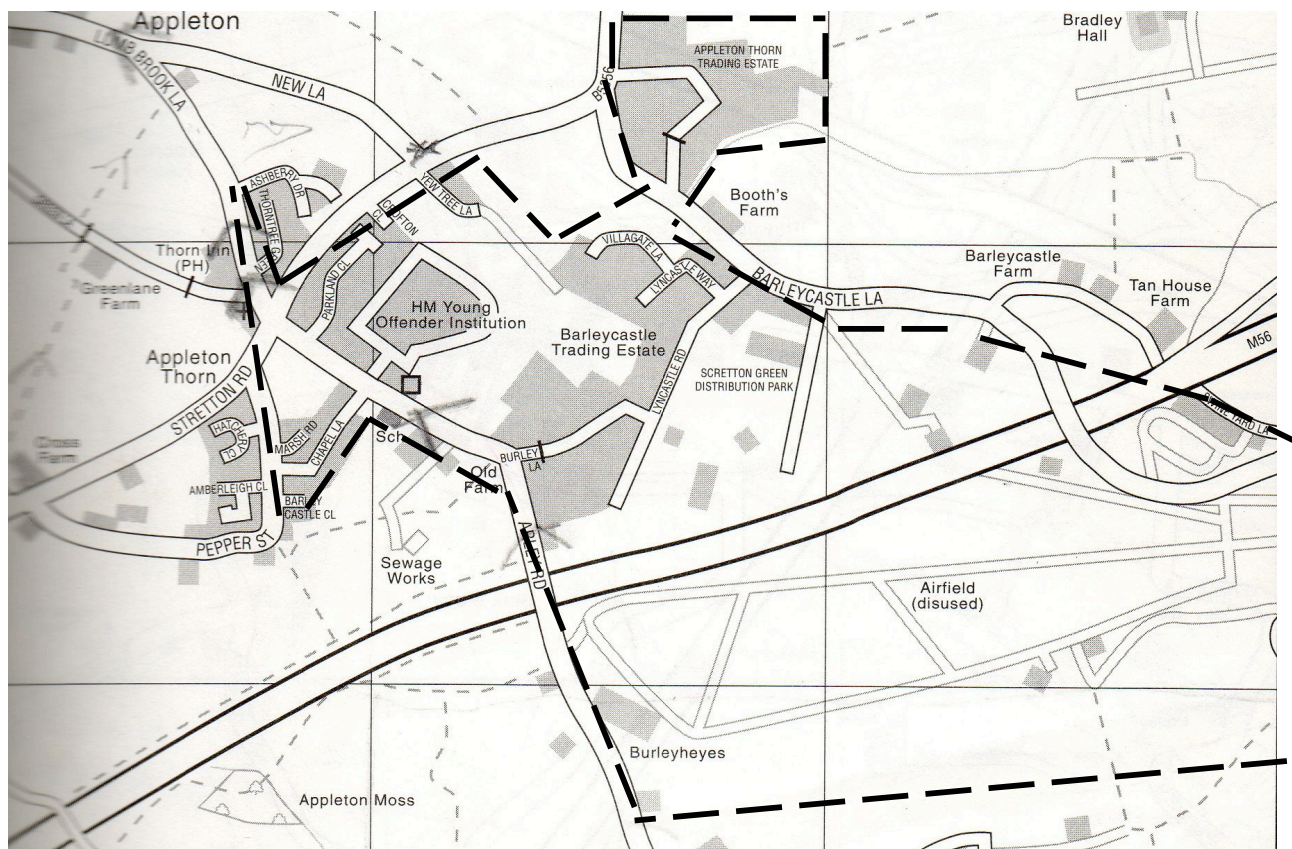
570 copies of the first book and 225 copies of book 2 have been sold plus 5 CDs with both books on it.



FURTHER PHOTOGRAPHS OF
ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATION STRETTON
H.M.S. BLACKCAP



An information plaque about the BLACKCAP graves in St. Cross church, Appleton was installed there in January 2006. It is of great interest to visitors to the graveyard. An information board was also provided in the Shearing Coach Interchange that stands on the site of the former Aircraft Maintenance Yard, for waiting passengers to learn something of our local heritage.



— — — — — Approximate extent of former Naval Air Station

By Derek Enfield

Birds of prey - their ups and downs on Whitley Reed



Having watched the 'Reed' over several years now it is encouraging to note that raptor populations in the main have probably increased over that time. Notable winners are Barn Owls, currently with 2 pairs in residence and a total of 9 chicks raised this season. Their success is due to the provision of the 'Toblerone' shaped boxes and lots of suitable habitat. However they are very susceptible to hard winters and 2012 was a disaster for the species as a whole.

Little owls have not fared as well (currently only 1 pair, where there used to be 3). This may be due to increased competition from its bigger cousins. Tawnies are certainly present and in winter Short Eared Owls can occasionally be seen

quartering the fields – always - a fine sight on a cold winter's afternoon. Their numbers seem to be increasing a little with 3 wintering in 2012 but surprisingly none last year; the rarest of the five by a good margin is the Long Eared, with only one seen over many years. However the local Barn Owl group has put up nest boxes to attract the species so things may improve. I suspect they once bred in 'Big Wood' (currently part of Apple Jacks leisure park). However much of this woodland has been wantonly destroyed, seemingly for little purpose, so it is highly unlikely they remain (regrettably that goes for most of the species that used to call that wood 'home').

Diurnal or daytime raptors have enjoyed mixed fortunes. Buzzard numbers have begun to plateau after several years of spectacular growth. Cheshire now has one of the highest densities of breeding pairs in Europe. Yet 30 years ago there were no more than 2-3 pairs in the whole county - mainly due to high levels of persecution. There are 2 pairs of Kestrels breeding on the Reed and probably about 3 pairs of sparrowhawk. Wandering Peregrines used to be seen quite frequently, often beating up the woodpigeon flocks, but strangely these days are rarer. This seems hard to explain as there are 2 breeding pairs within 2 miles of the site, but its equally dramatic cousin, the Merlin, is also an intermittent visitor, mainly in winter. These are a real pleasure to see - although smaller than a Kestrel, they share none of its languid demeanor, these little beauties are real high octane, pursuit predators, often chasing the Linnets or Skylarks flocks at an incredible turn of speed.

Finally, Hobby, a small falcon, is a summer migrant, arriving in April and heading back to Africa in September. These have also undergone a population increase in the County and are by no means an unusual sight at the right time. I found a nest in 2011 and 2012 and am sure they bred locally this year.

'Flybys' include Hen and Marsh Harrier and Goshawk. The one that continues to elude me is the Red Kite but with an expanding population in North and Central Wales I am sure it is only a matter of time before they too breed in the area.

By Chris Hancock

SPECIAL EVENTS



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

W.I GARDEN PARTY - 2ND JUNE 2015

Great excitement. Many people are asking why Antrobus had 5 tickets and most WIs had only one.



Three of us are members of County Sub Committees and our County Chairman

decided that these extra tickets should be for the people who work on the county sub-committees or do other jobs for the county. As I cannot walk far I had a wheel chair plus someone to push it – hence our 5th ticket. Those who did not enjoy coach travel, Jane Schofield, Jean Wilkinson and Sharon Batey, decided to go by train whilst myself and Janet Featonby went on one of the WI coaches. Although 8000 women were going we expected to meet the others, but never saw them and in fact our experiences were completely different.

On arrival in London the rail travellers got a taxi to the palace and Sharon delighted in saying “Take us to Buckingham Palace please”. But then they had to queue for about 40 minutes before reaching the Security Check point and being allowed into the Grosvenor gate entrance passing a beautiful display of foxgloves, purple, white and pink all ordered very carefully.

Meanwhile we arrived at the main gates and were instantly taken to the front of the queue and through a side gate into the Palace courtyard where Janet had just started to push, when a smartly dressed man took the chair and pushed me round onto the lawns.



I was sitting watching the Yeomen of the Guard marching out of the palace and down the steps onto the lawns, when I realised the one in front of my chair had turned and was walking straight at me and I was sitting in a wheel chair unable to move quickly! Then he “About turned” and marched back.

Apparently they had been “Marking a path” for the royals to walk down.

We decided to go for our afternoon tea, but still did not see the others. My friend has a wheat allergy and so had a special plate of food. The plates were rectangular with a place for your teacup at one end. The food was both delicious and dainty, long finger size sandwiches of ham and cream cheese, cucumber, tiny smoked salmon whirls, tiny scones, strawberry shortbread, Victoria sponge, little chocolate squares with a tiny crown on top and a particularly delicious tiny swiss roll, covered in chocolate and with pink cake inside. My friend enjoyed her “special” and we then noticed a smartly dressed man, wearing a badge was watching us. We smiled and he asked if the special food had been satisfactory, as he didn’t often get any “feedback”. All the staff were courteous and polite.



My friend then joined a group and found they were watching the Duchess of Cornwall and Sophie Wessex, who was asking people where they had come from. One lady asked her how she kept her hat on as the wind was very strong and gusty, to which she replied, “Pushed firmly with a lot of pins”. Princess Alexandra looked very elegant as did the Duchess of Gloucester. The two ground floor rooms of the palace were open and people were able to see a lovely portrait of Queen Victoria as well as the lovely view the Queen has of her gardens. We could see the herbaceous borders would look fantastic in a few weeks time.



Having listened to one of the bands as we arrived, we decided to go and sit in the sunshine and enjoy the music of the Royal Marines band. We were just making ourselves comfortable when they stopped playing. We asked why they had stopped when they had an audience. Apparently when they finished a piece of music they lowered the flag which was flying from their bandstand and the other band raised their flag and started playing. They were too far apart to hear each other. Whilst our

band was playing a very large hat came bowling across the lawn, blew over the top of the bandstand and down the other side to be caught by a bandsman. We were glad we had left our big posh hats at home. It was now getting time to start off back to the Coach and one of the palace staff came to ask if we would like him to push me across the gravel. Of course we agreed and asked him about his job. He told us he is keeper of the Queen's flags. When she goes away he takes them and makes sure that the correct one is flying over the place where she is, and when they return he checks the flags for any damage irons them and puts them away. He told us that to work in the Palace you have to be offered the job. He played the tuba in the Royal Marines band before. He pushed me up to the gate but then had to negotiate the pavement and kerb – which you couldn't see, as there were hundreds of people trying to cross.

Suddenly my wheel chair was lifted into the air by two policeman each getting hold of an arm and I was carried across the road with Janet running after. We had not seen our three members from Antrobus and hoped they had enjoyed their day as much as we had ours. We were given an ice cream in a tub before leaving and when we discovered there were no rubbish bins we were told to just drop them on the lawn. – A sad reflection of the dangers faced by us all.

We were sorry to have missed the impromptu singing of JERUSALEM started by some of the ladies and also the National Anthem which was played at 5pm – Guess where we were – in the queue for the toilets. It was a wonderful day and one none of us will ever forget.

By Joy Corlett

CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION



In 2006 the Parish Council entered and won the Cheshire Community Council competition for the most vibrant village in Cheshire. This meant that Antrobus was named Calor Cheshire Village of the year and nominated to take part in the North Region final of the 2007 Calor Village of the Year Competition.

A committee of representatives of village organisations was formed:

Ann Barlow, Chairman, Irene Barker, Mike Barker, Celia Bentley, Carol Bunn, Joy Corlett, Sue Enfield, Hilary Howman, Sue Lawless, Ray Lawton, Janet Mounfield, Meryl Phillips, Sue Richards, Secretary and Ken Whiston, Treasurer.

The first task was to distribute and read the booklet about the competition and then complete the fifteen page entry form. At the same time we had to submit six photographs representing life in Antrobus. These were taken by Bryan Bane and copies still hang in the small room of the Village Hall.

The competition was divided into six sections, Building Community Life, Business, Young People, Older People, Environment and Information Communication Technology.

We were told that three judges would visit the village for two hours and that we would be expected to show them the village, give presentations on each of the categories, answer questions and display the work of village organisations.

We were fortunate that the judges were coming to visit us on a Monday morning as that gave us Sunday for final preparations. We practiced and timed our presentations to a select audience who asked us questions on them. We set up displays, transforming the Village Hall, being thankful for the skills of WI members in covering tables. We were amazed to see the stage planned and decorated by Bryan Bane and helpers to depict local produce and life in Antrobus including live hens strutting outside their henhouse. Moving round the Hall people would stop to watch the film of events in Antrobus.

The day of the judging dawned, April 23rd, St. George's Day. The flag flew and the committee wore red roses. The judges arrived and were directed to their parking space. The Rose Queen welcomed them to Antrobus with a short speech then said "and now I have to go to do an exam."

Into the small room of the Village Hall where the judges were introduced to the committee, given refreshments and sat and listened to seven presentations one on each category being judged and an extra one on the Community Shop. After the questions, which thankfully were not too difficult to answer, the judges were taken to visit Manley Close, the Community Shop, buzzing with activity, and the outside of the school. They were particularly impressed with Manley Close.

Back to the Village Hall to visit the displays. There was a slight hush as the judges walked in but the Soulcasters saved the day by bursting into song. Besides the big display on the stage and the film there were displays from the Village Hall, the Soulcasters, the Ramblers, the Parish Plan, The Website, Antrobus Village News, the Parish Council, the places of worship, Church Chapel and Meeting House, the Environment and Heritage Group, the Georgian Relief Charity, the Community Shop, the Nursery, the Fete, the W.I the Bowls group, the School and the Friendship Club. Each group had been

responsible for their own display and it was like seeing a giant work of art come together. There had been some debate as to how the Friendship Club would be represented but this was solved by putting a table set out for tea in the middle of the hall and members sitting having a cup of tea, a cake and a chat.



We had invited villagers to come and see the displays during the morning and it was wonderful to hear their comments ranging from a muted "it's really good", to "wow" to "magnificent". As someone said "it was a real Antrobus occasion, everyone working together".

Soon the two hours allocated for the judging was over. After positive comments and words of thanks the judges were served a lunch of local produce by members of the WI in the small room and everyone else stayed in the main hall to have a well earned cup of tea or coffee. As the Hall was being used that evening the afternoon was spent dismantling everything but also eating up the local produce.



Although we did not win the overall North of England award we did win the North of England Older People and Environment Category prizes. The presentations made by Janet Mounfied and Sue Enfield to the judges are attached.



Amongst their comments the Judges said:

Geographically Antrobus is a large village spread over a wide area; however, this has not affected its community life which remains inclusive, vibrant and

active. Many successful community projects have been completed by villagers over recent years to the benefit of everyone. Antrobus Community Shop, the only one of its kind in Cheshire and Lancashire, is run entirely by volunteers.

Antrobus Village Hall is another impressive community project. The adjoining playground is also in existence thanks to the efforts of villagers.

The older residents of Antrobus make a significant contribution to all village activities.

In terms of its environmental achievements, Antrobus is also extremely successful. This is particularly noticeable in the work of Antrobus Heritage.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Vale Royal and members of Cheshire Community Council attended an event in the Village Hall when a representative of Calor presented Janet Mounfield and Sue Enfield with framed certificates and Ann Barlow with a cheque for £1,000 for Antrobus Parish Council. He stressed that winning the North Region awards was the result of a team effort of people working well together. Following the presentation the Mayor and Mayoress joined villagers at the Lunch Club, expressing their admiration at this example of flourishing village life.

In October the regional and national awards were presented at a lunch held at the Skinners Hall, one of the Guildhalls, in London. It was a superb setting for a very enjoyable event. Allendale in Northumberland were declared the northern region winners and at the end of the event were named Calor Village of the Year.

Final comments about our entry included:

The judges could feel the buzz of the community spirit in Antrobus through the people we met. The display of your local businesses for the presentation in the Village Hall was spectacular. The young people are certainly involved in the whole of village life and made welcome. The older people quite obviously make a significant contribution to all village activities. Antrobus Heritage is an excellent organisation. The village has made great strides in initiating the residents of Antrobus into the world of IT.

All three judges said how much they enjoyed their Antrobus lunch, commenting on both the quality and quantity of the food served.

Our final act as a committee was deciding how to spend the £1,000 we had won. Following much discussion it was decided to spend the money on chairs with arms for the Village Hall and on a bench, which is now situated in the churchyard in front of the church.

By Ann Barlow

Calor Village of the Year - Supporting Presentation

Category 4 – Older People

I have spent most of my career working in the field of care for older people and so I came to this task thinking, “Well just what do we do for our older residents.”

I very soon came to realise that this was totally the wrong direction. It is very much more a case of what do our older residents contribute to our vibrant village. How could we possibly manage without them? They are our friends, neighbours, co-workers, fellow volunteers and incredibly important members of our community.

Take the bar in this hall, it is managed by a gentleman in his 80's – he is a hands on worker and is always the last to leave after a late night function. The patio which you can see just outside was built by a group of friends calling themselves the ‘old codgers’ – 2 of them in their seventies – and they have been some of the first to sign up for the next building project that the hall is about to undertake. The photographs that you see here – yes the photographer cannot be said to be in the 1st flush of youth. Our caretaker is a pensioner.

Last year Vale Royal Borough Council gave its volunteer of the year award to one of our elderly residents for the work that she has done in the village. Another of our older residents has been recognised for his work in the village by an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. And just who will be doing much of the catering for the Midsummer Ball – a joint venture between the Friends of the School and the Village Hall Committee – well she would not forgive me – but I have been to more than one significant birthday party.

I daresay that we are no different from any other village in England, where the school children invite the pensioners to school productions, the Friendship Club is invited to tea in someone's garden. But it is not every village where the older residents are given a chair and a cup of tea in the village shop and even more importantly a friendly listening ear. Not every village has its own charity which can be applied to for funds in time of need.

Many older people are actively involved in the numerous societies and groups in the village. Perhaps not Karate on Monday evenings, but the W.I, the Bridge Club, Whist Club, Sequence Dancing Club, Indoor Bowling and of course the Friendship Club, as well as Chapel, Church, The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee.

Obviously at times people do need help and support. We are able to offer help with form filling for claiming attendance allowance, pension credit and community charge. This help is given by a volunteer who was involved with an Age Concern outreach project and although this project has come to an end the service is still available in Antrobus along with home visits for older people in special need. In the past year six people have been assisted with claims. The village is very poorly served by public transport and there is help with transport and with collecting prescriptions. When the next phase of the village hall is completed it is hoped that a Luncheon Club will be a regular feature.



I hope that I have been able to demonstrate to you the way that our village both values and supports its older residents. In a fast moving modern society our community still has time for people.

By Janet Mounfield

Calor Village of the Year - Supporting Presentation

Category 5 – Environment



In 2003 Antrobus Heritage, a voluntary group, started a 5 - year plan to enhance the flora of the parish. This was to be achieved by planting British native trees and wildflowers in the hedgerows along roads and public rights of way, where everyone could enjoy them. For this plan the group was awarded the 'Cheshire Countryside Award 2003'. After surveying the whole parish, sites were selected and landowners including Viscount Ashbrook, were approached for permission and to discuss species to be planted. In most cases the selection was decided by the group, taking into consideration the site and aspect. To date 190 trees have been planted and about 500 young wildflower plants. A significant amount of time is devoted to maintenance. The trees have been provided by the Mersey Forest, Cheshire Landscape Trust, and Boosey's local wholesale nursery or purchased by the group. The latter has also established a small tree nursery, using seedlings and whips donated to it, on an area of land owned by two of its members.

In the early days of planting the trees there were some casualties from hedgecutters and horses. Some of them have been rescued and others

replanted. Measures are now in place which have considerably reduced such problems. Plans are being laid to plant a stand of black poplars on the site of the former pinfold and to create a small copse on land which will be difficult to cultivate after a major power line has been erected.

As the project has progressed it has been very encouraging to see other landowners planting their own trees or letting existing stock grow up out of the hedges. Comments about the tree planting have been "It makes for more attractive scenery" and from a young family that gave permission for planting on its land "We are looking forward to watching them flourish over the coming years."

The group was also involved in the 'Bluebell Recovery' project run by the Mersey Forest. Seed was provided to propagate and extend the bluebell recovery in Antrobus. Further seed was collected from the woods on the Arley Estate and sent to Mersey Forest to assist their project. The resulting young plants have been planted in wooded areas along a public footpath, together with red campion and primroses. Some members and other interested individuals have attended several courses and workshops at the National wildflower Centre.

For several years now the Parish Council has organised the planting of daffodil bulbs throughout the village. The Community Shop funds and maintains the seasonal containers in the village centre.

A walk has been created by the Heritage group using public footpaths that would have been very familiar to the well-known local naturalist and author Arnold Whitworth Boyd. He lived at Frandley House Farm from 1919 to 1959 and is buried in Antrobus churchyard. On request, Cheshire Rights of Way Unit replaced all the stiles with kissing gates to make the walk more accessible for less able walkers. In spring 2007 a colour-illustrated leaflet of the walk is being published by a partnership of Cheshire Countryside Management, Cheshire Landscape Trust and Antrobus Heritage.

Informal monitoring of rights of way for problems is also carried out by the group, the Rambling Club and individual parishioners.

A local ornithologist has erected bird boxes along the path where the wildflower plants were put in.

An Antrobus farmer has created a permissive bridle path that links up other rights of way under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This is well used by riders and walkers. He has also created fishing ponds and allowed the long drive to his farm to be planted with trees.

Barn owls are returning in numbers to our area after five boxes were erected by individuals in barns and trees. Three nesting pairs were reported last year to the mid-Cheshire Barn Owl Conservation group.

The unique environment of Whitley Reed (a former moss and common) is monitored on an 'ad hoc' basis by the 'Friends of Whitley Reed'. The aim is to conserve the flora, fauna and landscape.

Every spring there is a 'litter pick' organised by the Parish Council with volunteer pickers. Old, young and in-between get involved and refreshments, provided by the Village Shop, are served on the car park where the bags of litter are emptied into skips provided by Vale Royal Borough Council. During the year blatant litter is removed by individuals or reported as fly tipping to Vale Royal Borough Council who usually collect it within 24 hours.

Antrobus St. Mark's School recently restored its 'Wild Area' following construction of a new classroom. As a result of a vote by the school council it was renamed 'Antrobus Forest'. New stoned pathways were laid and 200 daffodil and bluebell bulbs were planted. These were funded by 'Friends of School'.

A bird hide was built and bird boxes, feeders and bat boxes were put up. A hedgehog box was also provided and is now occupied.

Comment from a 9-year old, "The hide is very good and the area is good for wildlife" and from a 7-year old, "We keep to the pathways so we don't trample on plants and creatures".

Concurrently with the above an outdoor classroom was created with bench seating. It is used by the 'Foundation Stage' for nature walks and studies and as a general classroom in hot weather.

Parents' comment, "It is nice to have a bit of natural environment as well as ordinary playground for the children to play and explore in during break times".

These assets are maintained by 'Friends of School'.

The school also has attractive window boxes that are planted up by a lady of the village.

By Sue Enfield

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE AWARD 2011

It all started with a statement on the Post Office website “Nominate your local shop and post office for an award”. Progress reports of this nomination in editions of the Village News culminated with the great result of Antrobus becoming Champions of the whole of the North West of England in that category. Everything for our trip to London on 7th March 2011 to receive the award was organised. The dress code was lounge suits for men/ladies similar. At the House of Lords we were delayed by security formalities e.g. handbags x-rayed, photographs taken for our I.D tags and the issue of badges stated our name, place and category. Kate Hoey M.P. gave a short address then presented the awards while photos were taken by various officials.





Our next stop was Downing St. for 2.30pm as we had received an invitation from George Osborne M.P. to visit there. At No.11 we were shown around the ground and 1st floors. We were impressed to see the current Northwich and Knutsford Guardians on the coffee table in George's informal sitting room. From No.11 we walked through to No.10 – open access to both buildings inside. We were shown where the cabinet rooms were but didn't go in. As we left through No.10 door we spotted Larry, the Camerons' cat, curled up on the large window sill near the front door, this being his favourite spot.

Altogether we had a great day – good company, lots of laughter and a real sense of achievement for our Community Shop and P.O. in Antrobus. All of which was due to a dedicated team of volunteers and those who patronise this unique facility.

By Sue Enfield

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS







WORK

ANTROBUS EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

How did I begin? 2002

While working as a professional DJ at a local wedding held in a marquee, one of the guests was unable to get a taxi back to the Stretton Fox and I offered them a lift. After much discussion and local people confirming that there was a need for a locally based taxi service, I bit the bullet and applied to Vale Royal Council (now Cheshire West and Chester) for an operators licence and started the business with a Renault 25 saloon.

The business grew slowly and in 2003 there was a need to buy another vehicle and advertise for a part time driver. Advertising in the Village news and word of mouth has been the only source of work and has allowed me to build a loyal clientele. Chauffeuring has now proved to be another arm to the business and also some very interesting trips have been booked.

Clients have also become friends and it is a privilege to be able to provide a service to the fantastic community that is Antrobus.

I hope that Antrobus Executive Travel is able to continue for many more years.

By Alan Bunn



Les Murray and family moved into Foxley Brow House from Wimbledon, London in August 1999. Building work was completed to link the three separate parts of the farmhouse, which were built at different times to create a single family home – the building works spanned 3 years.

After the three children “fled the nest”, it was decided to undertake further work on the house and gardens so as to establish a “bed and breakfast” for visitors to the area. The new business was launched in 2013, and thanks to the internet Foxley Brow House attracts visitors from all over the world who are either simply passing by and want to explore Cheshire as part of their holidays, or who have come to participate at special family events such as christenings and weddings.

By Les Murray

ANTROBUS GOLF CLUB



Antrobus Golf Club was opened as a 9 hole golf course in 1993. It was built on 100 acres of open farmland with a few mature trees along its boundary.

The opening shots were struck by Lancashire & England cricketers Michael Atherton and Neil Fairbrother.

During the next two years a further 9 holes were added. Now after the addition of many trees, lake and water hazards the result is a testing course with a par 71 that stretches to 6120 yards from the back tees.

There is a purpose built club house overlooking the 18th green which hosts a range of functions and parties throughout the year. There is a 24 bay driving range with a practice bunker and chipping area and a putting green.

Set in the heart of the beautiful Cheshire countryside the course has been cleverly designed around existing natural features with water hazards and wooded area which ensures your round of golf is eventful.

Please come and visit us. You are most welcome.

By Celia Axford



We chose Antrobus to base our office because we felt that it represented the ethos of our company and is a well-cared for and much loved friendly village

We have been in Antrobus nearly five years now and have been made to feel very much a part of the village community by the residents and especially all the ladies and gents in the village shop and post office (Maggie) where nothing is too much trouble for them and they will always go above and beyond to try and help! With that in mind, we feel that the staff makes this essential shop the 'heart' of the village and you always come out smiling 😊

Our staff travels from Lymm, Shropshire and the Crewe area so is regretful that we are not able to participate in any of the village events although we do like to support where we can, especially the charity events that the village kindly organise

Having worked in Antrobus it is definitely a village that you feel you want to be a part of and you actually look forward to coming to work!

By Giselle

OLD ORCHARD PRESERVES



It was back in 2008 when I established my small Preserve business from home on the Old Orchard, I was inspired by my wonderful Grandad who imparted his preserve – cooking secrets and his ethos of using in-season, home grown produce. It's not difficult to obtain seasonal fruit in

Antrobus as there are plenty of keen gardeners who have surplus fruit and veg that they are keen to sell on to me. I also grow a selection of soft fruit in my own garden. You will often see me stripping local trees of Apples, Plums, Damsons and the like and then dashing back home and working all hours to reap the rewards of the local harvest. The seasonality of my job is one of the best things as I never get to be bored.

There are now a number of local shops that carry my stock including the Antrobus Community Shop, I also attend local Farmers Markets to sell my products.

There is so much free fruit around and sadly a lot of it is wasted, Elderflowers, Rosehips not to mention all those Crab Apples and other tree fruit growing close to home, I feel we should be educating each other in the skill of preserving. My effort is small but hopefully I can inspire others to waste not want not.. My kitchen door is always open to advise and encourage anyone who may need a helping hand.



By Karen Peploe

POPLARS FARM – FREE RANGE EGGS

Paul and Sue James moved to Poplars Farm in March 1995, their eldest son, [REDACTED], was a year old at the time. [REDACTED] was born in 1996. The family always kept chickens when the boys were young; this led them to sell a few eggs at the farm gate to passers by.

This progressed into a full time business selling free range eggs. At one point Poplars Farm had three different laying houses, totalling 4,500 birds.

In 2005 Paul and Sue were accredited with Lion Code Status, which meant that they could now trade with the supermarkets.

They began to buy free range eggs from locally contracted farms. Poplars Farm now serves 75 supermarkets and approximately 400 retail outlets from their lion registered packing centre.

By the James Family



THE VEG PATCH

OUR SMALLHOLDING. KNUTSFORD ROAD

We bought three fields from Reg Collins at the end of May 2001, totalling about 14 acres. One of these fields is rented out. At that time we had two horses and two ponies so applied for planning permission for four stables and a corner store room.

A small part of one field was made into a vegetable plot, fenced to keep rabbits out. That first year we grew beans, peas, carrots, parsnips and sprouts. We planted raspberry canes, a few strawberries and were given red and blackcurrant bushes. During the autumn we put in hedging between the fields, gradually replaced the fencing, taking out the barbed wire, and planted apple, pear, plum, damson and cherry trees.

The stables went up the next February. The following year we were given 3 year old collies, so naturally we had to get some sheep. We decided to look into buying a rare breed, and when some Jacob ewes were advertised we bought them, in lamb to a Suffolk ram. Our lovely black and white sheep all produced black lambs. We still have one of the original lambs and even when she is in lamb to a Jacob ram she can still have black lambs. One year she had one black and one Jacob, another year she had two Jacobs but one never grew any horns. More recently we bought some Hebridean sheep that can be rather flighty, which makes life interesting when we need to worm or vaccinate them.

Simon had always wanted pigs, so we turned part of one field into two pig enclosures and bought some Gloucester Old Spot pigs, way before they became the pig for the celebrities to buy. They are generally very docile, make excellent mothers and supply us with the sausages that we sell at the Christmas Market in the Village Hall. Piglets are great fun!

When the Amery's sold Flash Farm they held a clearance auction in aid of St Mark's Church, so then we had some hens and a cockerel. Over the years we have bought some, bred some and been given others, so we sell the eggs at the gate. They are truly free range, the hens love helping when we are digging, and can often be seen in the pig areas.

The Vegetable area had been doubled in size, strawberries, vegetables; fruit are all sold at the gate. Pumpkins sold very well last year and anything that doesn't sell and I can't or don't want to freeze can be given to the pigs – nothing goes to waste. One pig would come and watch me picking runner beans, waiting for the overgrown ones to be thrown to her. We have bought some second hand green houses and grow early broad beans, tomatoes and peppers, among other things. The cherry tomatoes sell very well.

We now have two horses, sheep numbers need to decrease so some will have to be sold, and the pigs need reorganising. We also have a team of dogs of varying ages, and yes three of them relate back to the one we were given so now, in theory, I shouldn't have to run round after the sheep, a dog or two can do that.

By Sue [REDACTED]

'TRIM TOES'



Businesses are often born out of necessity and mine was no different. My older friends were struggling to cut their own toe nails and I offered to help – and from this simple beginning, social evenings grew from a couple of friends to 7 on one particular evening! I thought it was high time to become professionally qualified and start my own business to help others. Hence, Trim Toes was born!

Following redundancy from my banking career, I returned to college and won “Sports Massage Student of the Year” back in 2005. Having retrained in massage, I was often asked by older clients if I would trim their toe nails in addition to the massage and it was a pleasure to return to college to complete another course – this time in pedicure and manicure. As a trained Swedish Massage Therapist, I offer foot massage as an option for clients, which is both enjoyable and therapeutic – it makes my essential service more popular – my clients see it as more of a treat than a visit to the chiropodist.

By Ann Sturtivant

MORE LOCAL BUSINESSES IN ANTROBUS

John Barber	-	Agricultural Contractor
Kevin Barnett	-	Painting & Decorating Services
Douglas Hogg	-	Professional Tree Services
Andrew Lawless	-	Gardening Services
GPG Property Services	-	General Property Maintenance
Landtech Solutions	-	Groundworks & Fencing Contractor
Little Merryfall/ A P Williams	-	Seasoned logs and Groundwork Solutions
M J Windows	-	Windows, Conservatories etc
Platinum Automated Entries	-	Gates, Garage Doors
The Pemberton Partnership	-	Chartered Surveyors and E.P.C.S
J Collins	-	Plastering & Building Services
Sevenoaks Sawmill	-	Dog Kennels, Hen Houses, Huts, etc
Sutton School of Dance	-	Modern–Ballet and Tap Dance Classes
Robin Yeoman Cabinet Maker	-	Antique restoration, Bespoke Joinery etc
Oakdale Cattery	-	Luxury accommodation for cats.

