



Newsletter May 2020

Coronavirus - Council launches Community Support Team

Atherstone Town Council in conjunction with the Atherstone Partnership have announced that, following a remarkable response to a call for volunteers to help their neighbours and fellow residents, support is now in place for every street and road throughout Atherstone.

Chairman of Atherstone Town Council, Councillor David Wright, on behalf of all fellow members sends a resounding "Thankyou to Atherstone" on behalf of everyone involved in co-ordinating the scheme in a matter of days.

Over 60 Volunteers are registered, between them covering over 4300 households and help is being offered with essential shopping, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs or just a friendly phone call for those who are unable to leave their homes during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Continued overleaf

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Look out for the Purple Badges and official black Town Council lanyards (pictured above) of the official volunteers.



Community Support Team

Continued from Front:

Cllr Wright added “This is part of our ongoing plan to support the most vulnerable in our local community and despite the hard work our volunteers are going to face over the coming weeks I have no doubt they will provide an invaluable service and we are all very proud they have come forward at such a time of need”

Gary Chamberlain of the Atherstone Partnership adds “I would also like to offer thanks, on behalf of the Atherstone Partnership, to all those who have come forward to volunteer. It is truly humbling to see how our community can pull together to offer such support to the people in most need. I’d also like to offer our thanks and praise to the officers and Councillors of Atherstone Town Council who have worked tirelessly to ensure this project gets the support it needs. Sally and Odette truly have done a fantastic job behind the scenes. Finally, a thank you to our local social media community forums who have put up with our many posts. I realise that we may have bombarded you with more posts than you expected but you have played a crucial part in getting this message out and ultimately gaining the support we need for this project to work.”

Shawn Brotherhood of Atherstone pharmacy suggested a “big round of applause is due to this happy group of responsible NHS volunteers and pharmacy staff. As pharmacist manager at Lloyd’s in Atherstone I couldn’t have done it without any of them. The volunteers are selfless, caring and practical in delivering to vulnerable and shielding patients without fuss on request, and for that I am forever grateful.”



Town Clerk Odette Ghent with the volunteer team at Lloyd’s Pharmacy.

Atherstone Community Support Team **CAN YOU HELP?**

To join as a volunteer or to find out more, please contact Atherstone Town Council on:
07928 974576 or 07541 946062, or by email at clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



PROTECT THE **NHS**

 **save lives**



Your Town Councillors



[Cllr Susan Allan-Stubbs](#)

South Ward

07483 830149



[Cllr Sara Bishop](#)

North Ward

01827 717480



[Cllr Jacky Chambers](#)

Central Ward

07966 425052



[Cllr Denise Clews](#)

South Ward

07477 607255



[Cllr Tony Clews](#)

North Ward

01827 711340



[Cllr Lorna Dirveiks](#)

Central Ward

01827 713191



[Cllr Dawn Downes](#)

Central Ward

07477 607255

Position
currently
vacant

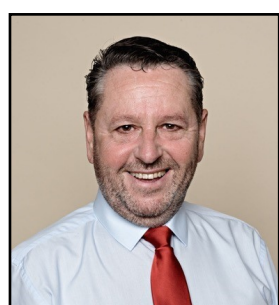
Central Ward



[Cllr Carl Gurney](#)

North Ward

01827 713976



[Cllr Brian Henney](#)

North Ward

07931 588218



[Cllr Ray Jarvis](#)

South Ward

01827 716534



[Cllr Mark Jordan](#)

Central Ward

07775 987866



[Cllr Angie Spencer](#)

Central Ward

07974 302910



[Cllr Mejar Singh](#)

North Ward

01827 712305



[Cllr David Wright](#)

North Ward

07711 330040



MP's Statement

A message from the local MP:

It has been a truly extraordinary few weeks for Atherstone and the country more widely.

Coronavirus continues to have a seismic impact on all our everyday lives and despite being more physically remote and disconnected with our neighbours and loved ones, it appears to me that the people of Atherstone are working together more closely than ever before. As I have noted on many occasions previously, the Town has a unique character, pride and community spirit so I had no doubt that the people of this town would pull together in the face of this vicious opponent.

It was great to hear that the Town Council had received offers of help for over 450 properties within the first morning of launching the Atherstone Community Support Team. This clearly demonstrates the spirit of this town in coming together to help each other. The only way we will protect as many lives as possible, is by pooling our efforts. And that includes me - I have been setting aside a few hours each day to go out delivering food and parcels to more vulnerable residents across the constituency, so have seen first-hand the palpable benefit this is having for those in need at the current time. Those who have been so generous with their time, support and donations should be incredibly proud of their contribution to helping our society cope at this exceptionally challenging time.

Aside from health concerns, I know one of the biggest sources of anxiety for local people has been the financial impact posed by the virus outbreak. In view of these concerns, the Government has launched a vast package of support for businesses, employees and the self-employed during this crisis – amounting to £330 billion, around 15% of total GDP.

In my own office, I have received countless emails from business owners reaching out for support, guidance and clarification. Amongst other personal concerns about coronavirus from my constituents, I have been in touch with 225 individual businesses, with 115 of these in this town. Atherstone has busy, vibrant high street. combined with a significant production and distribution base. It is vitally important that we can preserve this strength throughout this crisis so the character of Atherstone is kept intact.

As part of this package of support, the Treasury has provided local authorities with more than £12 billion to distribute to small businesses. It is hugely reassuring to report that, North Warwickshire Borough Council has already allocated over £8 million to 704 small businesses, many of which are in Atherstone. As a former small business owner myself, I fully appreciate the real concerns that will be held at the current time. The Treasury understands the need to provide tangible, immediate financial support to individuals and thus allowing them to focus on the priority at the current time: staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives, without overriding worries about the future viability of their businesses or paying the bills.

I recognise that this will continue to be a hugely anxious time for all Atherstone residents, and I trust you will all keep safe and well at home with your families. As ever, should anyone have any concerns or issues to raise, whether personally or as a business, please do not hesitate to get in touch at craig.tracey.mp@parliament.uk.

- Craig Tracey, MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth





Support for Atherstone

Atherstone Town Council is supporting local businesses trading in the Arcade on Long Street and also the essential market traders with free rent for three months. As you may also be aware each North Warwickshire Borough Council ward has a fund of £17650 to allocate within their areas, with a little more scope due to the current Coronavirus crisis.

To this end Borough Councillors Ray Jarvis and Mejar Singh representing Atherstone North Ward and Councillors Denise and Tony Clews representing Atherstone South, Mancetter and Ridge Lane Ward have made joint decisions to support two groups that have done sterling work in supporting our community during this crisis. We are donating a sum of £1000 to each group from both our funds that means that each group will receive £2000. The groups are:

- Edible links who are working flat out supporting the vulnerable with food and supplies through out all of North Warwickshire.
- North Warwickshire First Responders who are a group of highly trained volunteers supporting the ambulance service and the residents of North Warwickshire.



Edible Links Food Bank

North Warwickshire First Responders

For help paying your bills – For information on applying for Universal Credit www.gov.uk/universal-credit.

Act on Energy Grants and energy advice FREE ADVICE LINE 0800 988 2881 actonenergy.org.uk

Severn Trent - You may be able to reduce your water bill 0345 7500 500 www.northwarks.gov.uk/stgrant

Small Business Support – If you run a small business there are grants available www.northwarks.gov.uk/bg

There is information on other financial and emotional support that may be available at:

www.northwarks.gov.uk/moneyhelp

General information and changes to Borough Council services: www.northwarks.gov.uk/servicechanges

Guidance on how to dispose of your waste safely: www.northwarks.gov.uk/recycling

For help with symptoms of coronavirus: 111.nhs.uk or call 111.

Government advice and guidance: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Support for victims of domestic abuse: 0800 408 1552 or www.talk2someone.org.uk

For support with low mood or anxiety visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters> or in a crisis text Shout to 85258.



Coronavirus Advice

CORONAVIRUS - WHO TO CALL IF YOU NEED SUPPORT?



FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ask your family and friends to help you, they can drop off items if you are self-isolating, don't suffer or go without essential items such as food and medicines.

COMMUNITY

If your family or friends can't help then someone in your community may be able to.
Visit www.northwarks.gov.uk/sg



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

COUNCIL

If you can't find or access support from your community, please ring 0800 408 1447.

If you have Coronavirus symptoms DO NOT go to your GP,
pharmacy or hospital
visit www.111.nhs.co.uk/covid-19
if you don't have internet access call NHS 111
For a medical emergency call 999



Mayoral Diary



Town Mayor and Consort Carl and Pauline Gurney

Like so many others in Atherstone I am currently shielding for health reasons and despite my Mayoral year ending so abruptly in March, Pauline and I have been reflecting on the happier times we had proudly representing Atherstone as Town Mayor and Consort. It has also been a privilege to see how brilliantly the Community of Atherstone has risen to the enormous challenge presented by the Coronavirus.

Since the last newsletter I have proudly represented Atherstone at several events; the Legal Service for the High Sheriff in October was an honour to attend, as well as the annual Remembrance Day Parade. In November I also attended the Atherstone Dramatic Society's production of Sue Townsend's comedy 'Bazaar and Rummage', an amazing performance from a lovely company, and I would recommend a visit to OSCA for all of you, after the current crisis subsides. As a keen local historian I am eager to preserve and celebrate the town's traditions, the most well known being the Shrovetide Ball Game, but this year I had the pleasure of having luncheon alongside members of the Worshipful Guild of Feltmakers, keeping alive a St. Clement's Day tradition as old as the hat factories themselves.

In December I attended the Hinckley and Bosworth Mayor's Carol Service and the George Eliot Hospital Charity Thanking Event, made even more relevant by the current situation and the messages of thanks which we are all extending towards our NHS. I was very pleased to host a Civic Reception in conjunction with Dickens 2019 (right). Atherstone welcomed many Civic guests from around Warwickshire including the North Warwickshire Borough Mayor, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire as well as several other local Mayors and Chairmen. It was also a pleasure to invite many volunteers from local community groups along with Honorary Citizens and their guests.



Dickens Reception 2019

After Christmas, I attended the Alcester Town Council Dinner in February and the Warwickshire County Council Civic Dinner in March, before my own much anticipated dinner was postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Atherstone has a wealth of local volunteers, but little did we know then how well the Community of Atherstone would respond to the current pandemic, and



Mayoral Diary

discover yet more volunteers to step up to a completely new challenge. At the time of writing this the brand new Atherstone Community Support Team (set up in response to Covid-19 in conjunction with The Atherstone Partnership) has over 80 volunteers supporting those in most need, covering every single street in the town. The response from these volunteers makes us all proud and has been a real positive outcome from an otherwise stressful time in all of our lives.

I would also like to wholeheartedly thank every person helping in whatever way they can in response to the pandemic. Whether this is the official volunteers, or the more unsung heroes who are all around us. From the teachers supporting the children of keyworkers to the refuse collectors, postal workers and shop assistants who are keeping our community running; to every single one of you, your community will be eternally grateful. I have every faith that this outstanding community spirit will continue after the current crisis, and only add to our thriving community.

- Town Mayor Cllr Carl Gurney

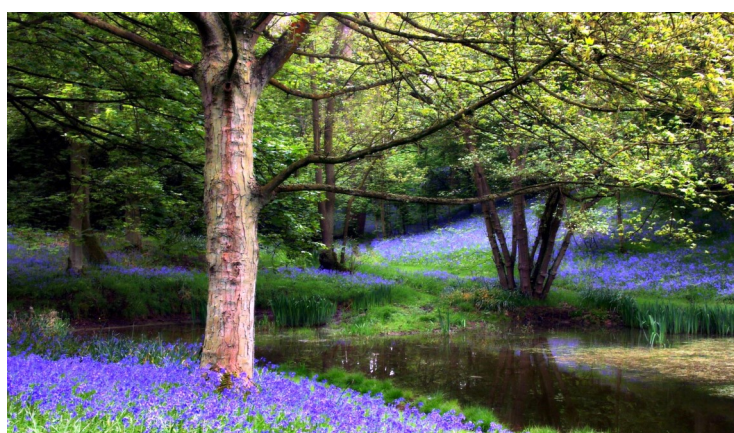


Views of Atherstone



Above: Pictures of the Coventry Canal in Atherstone, Below: Views over Atherstone and the Bluebell Woods

Photographs courtesy of Honorary Citizen Graham Beale





Atherstone Civic Society at 30

Atherstone Civic Society's familiar logo celebrates John Livock's distinctive station architecture of 1847. The Society - a group coming together to protect, promote and disseminate information on Atherstone and its surroundings - decided thirty years ago that the image represented the town's character.



Perhaps not many people know this, but the Society's beginning was rubbish; that is to say, it was, quite literally....rubbish! In April and May of 1990, a few concerned townsfolk got together to litter-pick, clean graffiti from the wall of the clinic and fill a skip with fly-tipped rubbish. From that Spring-clean came the first public meeting of the new Atherstone Civic Society, held in the Library in October that same year. There it was that the aims of A.C.S. were agreed. A public notice read, *"The Atherstone Civic Society has been formed to stimulate interest in, and action for, the improvement of the local environment. If you support these aims please come along"*. Today in 2020, and with A.C.S. affiliated to the national body Civic Voice, those aims are unchanged. They are summed up in the Society's recently adopted motto: *"To preserve the best and improve the rest"*.

From the start A.C.S. has been a voluntary organisation. It has no address other than its website, www.atherstonecivicsociety.co.uk. Its committee meets in a variety of friendly venues, and in recent years the whole membership, currently numbering well over 100, has welcomed being able to use Trinity Church, Coleshill Road for a monthly programme of wide-ranging informative and entertaining talks from knowledgeable speakers. That programme is interspersed with outings, while in the summer months, different generous members will host the annual Garden Party. And about three times a year, the A.C.S. newsletter goes out to members.

One significant feature in those newsletters is a report on interactions between the A.C.S. and the N.W.B.C. Planning Department; the Society takes a keen interest in local planning decisions, as reflected by the motto noted above. For many years, Judy Vero was a strong advocate for those values, until stepping down recently to pass the baton to Patrick Woodcock. A bed-rock for A.C.S. interventions is the maintenance of the principles of the Conservation Area. Then there is also the project work which the Society undertakes, the culmination of each project open and easily visible to the public.

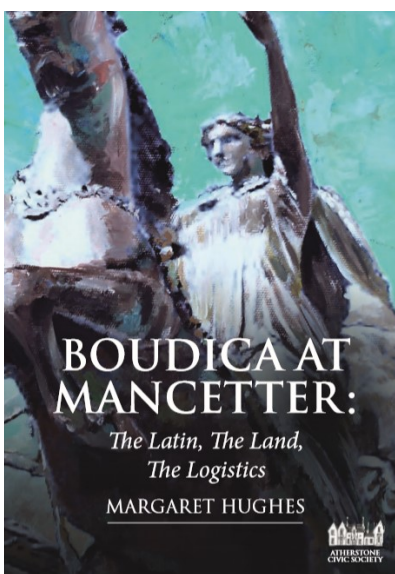
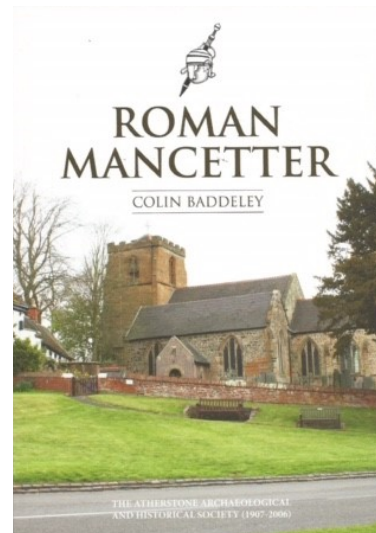
For instance, the 3-year HART project (carried out by the History of Atherstone Research Team, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with Nationwide and the Countryside Agency) in 2015 produced the respected overview of the town's history: *Atherstone: a pleasantly placed town*, edited chiefly by Nat Alcock. At the same time it was mirrored in an informal work of "faction": *Once Upon A Time in*



Atherstone Civic Society at 30

Atherstone (Margaret Hughes). Judy Vero went on to expand the HART work, creating a valued reference atherstone-house-history-project as a comprehensive section of www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk.

Next came the project *On Boudica's Trail* (2011-2013), this time under LEADER funding (administered through DEFRA), which included the publication of the detailed history, *Roman Mancetter* (Colin Baddeley), and started a series of fun Open Days to celebrate Mancetter's Roman history. Looking back now, it's clear the project was the opening salvo in the Society's drive to consolidate the theory that Boudica's last battle was fought at Mancetter. It included research by Alan Cook, employing the ASTER satellite towards an examination of the composition of the soil, which remained inconclusive. But it also went on to convene a highly successful one-day



conference at the University of Warwick, with contributions from eight nationally recognised Boudican researchers. The event did much to raise the profile of the Boudican battle debate. This is reflected in the 2020 A.C.S. publication, *Boudica At Mancetter* (Margaret Hughes) which sets out further original research on the Mancetter hypothesis. The book was made possible by a grant from North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Coming up to date, February 15th this year saw the opening of the Roman Mancetter and Boudica Heritage Centre, beautifully housed within the south aisle of St. Peter's Church, Mancetter. Its creation was supported by grants from

LEADER, also from North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. As the applicant and body responsible for the financing of the project, A.C.S. is delighted to be working in a mutually stimulating partnership with St. Peter's Church. All through 2019, a team of volunteers from both bodies collaborated long and enthusiastically hard to turn the concept of a permanent exhibition into reality. Mancetter's rich Roman heritage is vividly depicted, alongside a carefully guided explanation of the theory that Mancetter may have been the site of Queen Boudica's last battle. The partnership looks forward to further exciting plans when circumstances allow. And so, Atherstone Civic Society goes on. From 1990 weed-killing in the town centre to 2020 in-depth promotion of local history, A.C.S. has its roots in the soil and the soul of the town.

- M. Hughes, A.C.S. Secretary



The Boxing Policeman



A young Lloyd Walton grew up on a tough council estate where mischief seemed to follow him around. With no direction he was soon removed from mainstream education. It appeared predetermined that Lloyd would end up on the wrong path, that was, until his Grandad introduced him to boxing, an auspicious moment that would alter the trajectory of his life until the present day.

From the outset Lloyd committed to the sport, throwing his mind, body and soul into training. An avid student of the game, he would analyse fighters and soon realised that so many had

achieved so much from similar backgrounds to himself. With this new-found confidence and self-belief Lloyd began studying and before long found himself employment. As the young Lloyd matured into a man he reflected on how fortunate he'd been, and how differently things could have turned out. This led him to apply as a Police Officer, in an attempt to help those facing similar obstacles growing up.

Lloyd was employed by Warwickshire Police in 2000 and he's remained "frontline" ever since, citing pride in his upbringing and the local community as reasons for his success. Lloyd has continued to fight, train, study and mentor boxers throughout the years, representing the Police and winning belts along the way. He opened the Warwickshire Police Boxing and Fitness club in 2019. The club is aimed at giving young people from all walks of life a role model and an opportunity to take the "right path". It is funded by the local community and is offered free of charge as a gateway to a better life.

The club currently has 40 youngsters on its books with none being involved in crime since the club started. Lloyd aims to help youngsters through boxing, his in-depth knowledge and experiences of being so close to a very different life - a life that many of Lloyd's former friends didn't live to tell the tale. Lloyd also trains novice fighters free of charge on behalf of the Georgie's Gift Charity when they sign to compete in charity boxing events.



Police SNT Newsletter

County Lines:

Atherstone SNT have been and continue to work with partner agencies such as North Warwickshire borough Council to reduce the issue of drugs in Atherstone. Five addresses in Atherstone have now been closed due to cuckooing and a recent arrest has been made in relation to drugs possession and intent to supply. Due to the ongoing effort of the local police and partner agencies Atherstone has seen a dramatic reduction in drugs supply and anti-social behaviour.

Covid-19:

Atherstone SNT have changed their shifts to ensure restrictions are being adhered to. We are still receiving a high volume of incidents where people are not following the government guidelines which of course stops us from conducting out day to day jobs. Please respect the rules so we can all stay safe and the sooner we go back to our lives. To see the full newsletter go to atherstone-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Newsletter-April-2020-east-6.pdf



Market Square Events

Atherstone Market

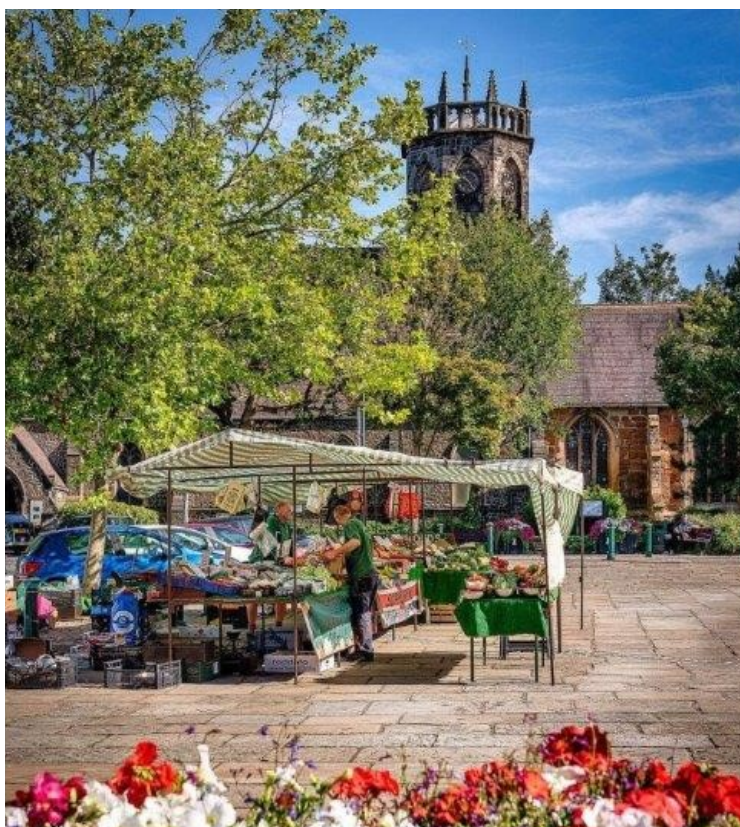
Every Tuesday and Friday
9am to 3pm
in the Market Square, Atherstone

Come and visit your local market with:

- Fruit & Veg
- Butcher
- Fishmonger
- Menswear
- Ladies wear
- Household goods
- Jewellery, and more



The market is great value for money, bringing you quality products at affordable prices.



Note: The market is currently only open for the Butcher and Fruit & Veg stalls as essential businesses.



Contact Details

Contact Us:

In Person

Town Council Office, The Old Mortuary, North Street, CV9 1JN.
Every Weekday 9.30 – 11.00am

Write to

PO Box 2000, Atherstone,
CV9 1YN

Telephone

01827 720829

Email

clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Website

www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Have Your Say!

Councillor surgeries are held at 6.30pm until 7.00pm prior to the monthly Town Council meeting.

All council meetings also include a public session when items for a future agenda can be raised.

Meeting Dates:

All meetings are currently postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak and social distancing measures. For up to date meeting dates see our website.

Town Councillors:

Susan Allan-Stubbs	07483 830149
Sara Bishop	01827 717480
Jacky Chambers	07966 425052
Denise Clews	07477 607255
Tony Clews	01827 711340
Lorna Dirveiks	01827 713191
Dawn Downes	07477 607255
Carl Gurney	01827 713976
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