



THE WONDERFUL

WORLD OF BOOKS



**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

# ASTWOOD BANK Summer SUNDOWNER

## FRI 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 7PM

SANDHILLS FARM, EDGIOAKE LANE

HEADLINE  
SPONSOR:  
ASTWOOD  
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STOPS ALONG EVESHAM ROAD TO  
CRABBS CROSS ISLAND)



## Letter from the Chairman



### Welcome to the 39th Astwood Bank Carnival – Celebrating the Wonderful World of Books!

As we prepare to turn the page on another unforgettable weekend of celebration, I'm delighted to welcome you to the 39th Astwood Bank Carnival, inspired this year by the magical and inspiring theme: The Wonderful World of Books. From timeless classics to modern masterpieces, stories have the power to spark imagination, bring communities together, and transport us to places near and far.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our exhibitors, trade stands, volunteers, and sponsors. Your continued support helps ensure this much-loved tradition continues to grow and succeed year after year. We are also grateful to have received financial support from Redditch Borough Council through the Community Grant Scheme, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Council for their valued contribution.

This year's festivities begin on Friday 10th July 2026 at 7pm, with the return of our Summer Sundowner on the Carnival Showground (Sandhills Farm, Astwood Bank, B96 6BG). Following the success of last year's relaxed summer evening, we're once again bringing you live music, delicious food, and a wonderful atmosphere to open the weekend in style. Think of it as the perfect first chapter – a chance to enjoy the sunset with an Ibiza style DJ, reconnect with friends, dance to two live bands and soak up the spirit of Carnival.

On Saturday 11th July, the excitement continues as our Carnival Royalty lead a spectacular parade of floats, performers, and musicians through the streets of Astwood Bank. Expect to see beloved characters and literary favourites brought to life – from the magical world of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, to the spellbinding stories of Harry Potter, the adventure of Treasure Island, and the charm of The Gruffalo. The village will be transformed into a living storybook, filled with colour, creativity, and community spirit.

Back at SE Davis & Sons, the showground will be buzzing with arena acts, entertainment, and interactive fun for all ages. Whether you're a fan of fairy tales, fantasy, mystery, or adventure, there will be something to capture every imagination. Enjoy thrilling displays, family-friendly games, and perhaps even a few surprises worthy of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Treat your taste buds to a variety of delicious food stalls and relax with a refreshing drink from one of our Carnival Bars, including the ever-popular 'Quicky Bar', all staffed by our incredible team of volunteers.

Discover an amazing falconry display, a living historical village, a Punch & Judy inspired show, pony rides, face painting and browse our bustling shopping area packed with crafts, gifts, and community trade stands. You might even find inspiration worthy of The Chronicles of Narnia as you explore everything on offer.

This year we have expanded our offering of live music with an unforgettable weekend not to be missed. Please check out page 15 for the full line up!

So, dust off your favourite storybook costume, gather your friends and family, and join us for a weekend filled with imagination, adventure, and celebration at the 39th Astwood Bank Carnival – where every page brings a new delight.

*Ashley Hewitt*  
Chairman

Don't forget to decorate your  
home for Carnival weekend!



## Astwood Bank Community Group CIC 39th ANNUAL CARNIVAL

Honorary President: Colin Taylor

Directors: Ashley Hewitt, Alison Flower, Charlotte Shepard,  
Christine Stockton, Julian Davis, Kiera Jauncey-Rock, Rob Lomas,  
Rob Harrington, Sophie Myers, Tess Hawkes and Vicky Hewitt.

Telephone: 07745 525840 | Email: [secretary@astwoodbankcg.co.uk](mailto:secretary@astwoodbankcg.co.uk)

Astwood Bank Community Group are most grateful to the Davis Family for their kind co-operation in permitting the use of the showground and car park.

All show information is available on-line at: [www.astwoodbankcg.co.uk](http://www.astwoodbankcg.co.uk)

## Returning for 2026

Come and support your Community Group Directors  
and Volunteers at the ....

## 'Quicky Can Bar'

We will be open for both the **SUNDOWNER**  
and **CARNIVAL DAY 2026!**

We're proud to serve up a variety of refreshing ice-cold cans  
and beverages both alcoholic and non alcoholic to keep you cool  
and energised all weekend long.

**Great prices | Quick service | Easy recycling**

All proceeds directly go back into the **Community Group Fund**  
which in turn gets given back into the wider community and pays  
for these events to go ahead year on year.

What more could you ask for?

**Swing by, say hi, and support your  
community while you sip!**

# PIMM'S BAR

## British Pimm's on a Summers Day!

What could be better than a refreshing glass of the traditional  
British Pimm's on a summer's day! The quintessential way to  
relax and watch the Carnival go by.

Proudly sponsored by:



## CARNIVAL GRAND DRAW

**50p per ticket or £2.00 for the full book of tickets**

**TOP PRIZE FROM SEA VIEW RETREAT**

*Enjoy a restful 2 night break in beautiful West Somerset  
September 11th-13th 2026 worth over £200!*

**£100 CASH** kindly donated by Bunting

**4 tickets to the Christmas Pantomime of 'Cinderella'**  
kindly donated by the Palace Theatre

**Plus** many more prizes from haircuts, beauty treatments,  
family days out and delicious cream teas.

All proceeds will go back into  
supporting your Community Group.

Tickets will be available at the Summer  
Sundowner and on Carnival Day if you  
haven't seen us before!



# THANK YOU SO MUCH!

A great big thank you from Astwood Bank Community Group

## Principal Sponsors

**S.E. Davis & Son Ltd**

**Allelys Group**

SUPPORTED BY  
**Redditch**  
Borough Council  
Working together for our communities

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Val's Catering  
Victoria House Hair Salon  
Vulco  
Windsor Carpets  
Wonky Donkey Creative  
Worcestershire County Council

Would you be interested in sponsoring the 2027 event?

Please contact Ashley Hewitt on 07745 525840 or [ashley.hewitt@astwoodbankcg.co.uk](mailto:ashley.hewitt@astwoodbankcg.co.uk)

# Can we **Ask** a favour of all visitors to this years Carnival



There is parking on site, so please, please, please do not park on the roads around and leading up to the Carnival Showground or S.E.Davis Yard. Access to S.E.Davis Yard needs to be available at all times.

Roads and the Carnival site **NEED** to be kept clear for Emergency service vehicles and access at all times.

- 1 Do not block the main road.**
- 2 Be considerate of residents driveways.**

## Mobility On Carnival Day

If you have ever avoided or stayed away from Carnival Day due to access or mobility, we wanted to let you know that there is specific parking for disabled visitors. Please show your blue badge to any of the parking attendants and they will direct you to the nearest space. There are a limited number of spaces.



Thank you everyone for your cooperation and continued support.

# A Guide to the Showground

## Astwood Bank Carnival 2026 – The Wonderful World of Books!



This year's Astwood Bank Carnival promises to be a fantastic day for all the family as we celebrate our 2026 theme, The Wonderful World of Books! Once again, we are incredibly grateful to the Davis family for hosting us at their fields at SE Davis, Sandhills Farm – the perfect setting for a showground where stories will leap from the page and come to life.

Get ready for all the fun of the fair, with thrilling rides for the adventurous, animal attractions and traditional Punch & Judy entertainment from Professor Collywobbles. There will also be an opportunity for our young visitors to brush up on their circus skills! And a fabulous silent disco for everyone to enjoy.

Our main arena will offer lots of family entertainment with a fun falconry show and wonderful historic performance from Normannis. Alongside the incredible local talent of The Shaun Paul Smith Dance Academy, Lucy Janes School of Dance and Helena Jane Dance Academy. We are so lucky to showcase such amazing performers from our own community.

Dog lovers won't want to miss our fun-filled Dog Show in the canine arena, where pooches of all shapes and sizes can compete in light-hearted categories from waggiest tail to handsomest hound.

For 2026, we are delighted to welcome Attwell Farm Park to the showground! They will be bringing along a wonderful range of animals for everyone to enjoy, giving visitors the chance to get up close and learn more about life on the farm. You may even discover some of your favourite farmyard friends from storybooks and children's tales brought to life on Carnival Day!

All of our attractions with animals will be weather dependant so as always keep an eye on our social media near the day!

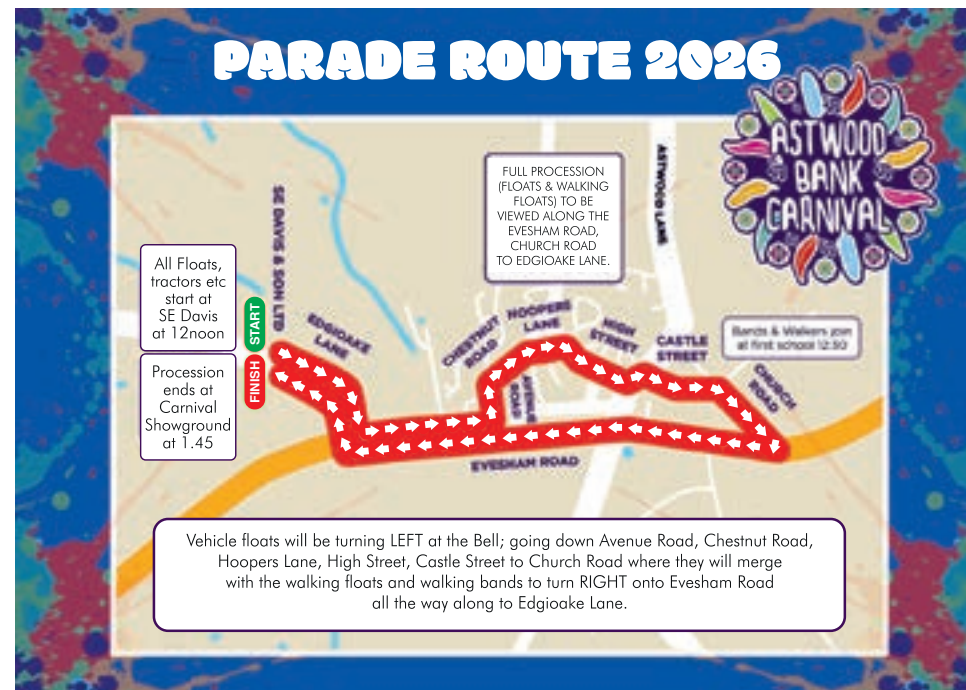
This year's trade area is bigger and better than ever, brimming with a fabulous mix of craft, artisan and gift stalls, alongside well-loved charities and local traders. Whether you're searching for handmade treasures, locally sourced treats or unique gifts, there's something for everyone – perhaps even something worthy of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!

Bring your appetite too – the food offering is packed with flavour. Enjoy everything from pizza to Indian and Jamaican cuisine, burgers, ice cream and so much more.

Stay refreshed throughout the day with a wide range of beverage options. Our amazing team of volunteers will be running the ever-popular 'Quicky Bar', complemented by mobile bars, barista coffee stand and even a Pimm's station. All this alongside fabulous live music and the wonderful community spirit that makes our Carnival so special year after year.

So, dust off your favourite storybook costume, gather your friends and family, and join us as we open the covers on the book that is Astwood Bank Carnival 2026 – where imagination takes centre stage and every chapter is filled with fun!

There is still time to apply for a stall or be part of the Carnival showground  
or procession via the weblink: [www.astwoodbankcg.co.uk](http://www.astwoodbankcg.co.uk)  
or email: [getinvolved@astwoodbankcg.co.uk](mailto:getinvolved@astwoodbankcg.co.uk)



## ROAD CLOSURES

12noon - 2pm, Saturday 11th July 2026

For anyone who is new to Astwood Bank, there is a routine Road Closure through Astwood Bank on Carnival Day, between 12noon and 2pm.

This is to allow the safe manoeuvring of the procession through the streets for the whole community to see. As part of this road closure, we do ask that all cars be moved off the roads completely. This is to ensure access for Emergency Services at all times, as well as the safety of all those participating in the procession and the manoeuvrability of the Allelys Lorries, and some of those turns are tight!!

## ROADS AFFECTED

Edgioake Lane, Evesham Road, Avenue Road, Chestnut Road, Hoopers Lane, High Street, Feckenham Road, Castle Street, Church Road.

More reminders, as well as a full procession route map will be shared nearer to the day, but we wanted to thank you in advance for your support.

# Sustainability



We try to run Carnival and all our events as conscientiously as we possibly can, thinking of the impact on our village and the wider environment.

The people clearing up from this event are volunteers, friends and neighbours, but we have all got a role to play in this. Therefore, we kindly ask you to use the bins provided to dispose of any waste that you generate. Your help in keeping the showground and the carnival route as free from waste as possible is massively appreciated.

Returning for 2026 the 'Quicky Bar' is run by the Directors and Friends of the Community group - the idea behind this is to have a 'Can Bar' to help with recycling and reduce single use plastic cups! Please come and support us!



**Or please take it home.**  
Thank you for doing your bit to make our event sustainable.



## Royal Motorways

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Royal Motorways provide quality coach hire!

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# Davis Aggregates



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View our website here



# Useful Information

## OPENING TIMES

The Astwood Bank Carnival is held on the 11th July 2026 and is open from 11:00 - 17:30. This event is free to attend, but donations for entry are welcome. Last entry to the event is at 17:00.

## GETTING HERE USING A SAT NAV

The postcode most appropriate for Sat Nav is B96 6BG. This will take you to the public car park. As there will be road closures in place, a gentle reminder that cars will need to queue for entry if arriving between 12:00-14:00 via specific roads.

## CAR PARKING

Parking is available at the showground.

## DISABLED VISITORS

We have specific parking for our disabled visitors. Please show your Blue Parking badge to any of the parking attendants and they will direct you to the nearest space. Please be aware that disabled parking is limited.

## STEWARDS

Our volunteer stewards are there to help you and will be happy to answer your questions. They are identifiable by wearing Hi-Vis waistcoats and/or badges.

## DOGS

Visitors are welcome to bring their dogs to the event as long as they are kept on a short lead and remain under control. Owners are also responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Dogs are strictly not to be left in cars.

## LOST & FOUND CHILDREN

If you lose a child on the showground please report immediately to a steward. Similarly, if you find a lost child please report to a steward as soon as possible. Lost children will be taken to the information point located on the showground. If a child (or other vulnerable person) is found, or reported lost, immediate contact should be made with any event steward, or the police. Once reported people should wait until an event official arrives.

## TOILETS

Toilets are situated at various locations around the Showground. Facilities for disabled visitors are available. Baby change and private nursing facilities are also available.

## HAND WASHING & HYGIENE

It is strongly recommended that anyone coming into direct contact with animals should wash their hands immediately afterwards and in particular before eating. There will be hand washing stations located around any livestock area.

## EMERGENCY

Should an emergency occur at the event please contact the nearest steward who will be able to assist you.

## SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited in any enclosed or partially enclosed public area. All cigarette ends should be disposed of once cooled in the bins provided.

## FIRST AID

The first aid post is situated on the Showground. If you need their assistance at the event, please speak to the nearest steward who will be able to help you.

## VETS

We do not have any show appointed vets.

## CATERING & BARS

Numerous mobile catering units are available on the showground. Seating is available. Licenced bars will also be open during the day. Please drink responsibly. Please put all litter in bins provided or take it home with you - thank you!

## CASH FACILITIES

To make our traders lives easier, please try and bring cash with you where possible. Some traders will have access to mobile broadband for card payment transactions but others may not. There will not be a cash machine onsite at the showground.

## INFORMATION POINT

Located on the showground. This will be pinpointed using large pink flags or if in doubt ask a passing steward!

## LOST PROPERTY

Any lost/found property should be taken to Gate A.

## TICKETS

The procession and showground is free to attend with no prior booking required.

## BINS

Are located throughout the showground for your convenience, please dispose of your litter responsibly.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

The organisers of the event have taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accident's occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers, officials and stewards.

The landowners, organisers, sponsors or officials of the Astwood Bank Carnival will not hold themselves responsible for any loss, damage, accidents or injury to owners, handlers, spectators, livestock or any property or vehicle, however caused.



The 2027 Astwood Bank Carnival  
will be held on  
**Saturday 10th July**  
Keep up to date with how  
it is developing by following us on  
**Facebook & Twitter**  
[www.astwoodbankcg.co.uk](http://www.astwoodbankcg.co.uk)

# Arena Timetable

## Saturday 11th July

The arena is located in the middle of the Showground

(Event timings are approximate)

### Main Arena

11:00am	Open
1:45pm – 2:00pm	Lucy Jane School of Dance
2:05pm – 2:35pm	Tora's Falconry
2:40pm – 2:55pm	Royalty Crowning Ceremony
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Historia Nommanis (12th Century Reenactment Group)
3:40pm – 4:10pm	Tora's Falconry
4:15pm – 4:30pm	Helena Jane Dance Academy
4:40pm – 4:55pm	Sean Paul Smith Dance Academy

### Showground – Children's Entertainment

11:00am – 5:00pm	Silent Disco – Vintage Belles
11:00am – 5:00pm	Animal Petting – Attwell Farm Park
2:00pm / 3:30pm / 4:30pm	Professor Collywobbles
5:00pm	Close

Live music is now available on the Showground -  
check out the stage located near the volunteer-run 'Quicky Bar'  
or 'Pimms Bar' grab a drink and enjoy the music on offer!

Sponsored by



ASTWOOD BANK  
*Summer*  
SUNDOWNER

## 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY

19:00-19:45

WARWICK ARTHUR OF VINYL PEOPLE

20:00-20:45

SPECIAL MEASURES

21:00-22:30

ELLIE JONES & THE GIANTS



## 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY

13:30-14:30

THEM IMPOSTERS

14:30-15:30

JACK READ & THE SHADERS

15:30-16:00

POP VOICES

16:00-17:00

THE EMMA SKIPP BAND

# Dance Showcase

The 2026 Astwood Bank Carnival is set to dazzle audiences with an outstanding showcase of local dance and athletic talent. This year's lineup features returning favourites and exciting new acts, celebrating the creativity and dedication of our young performers.



Headlining once again is the **Shaun Paul Smith Academy**, known for its dynamic street dance training and commitment to building confidence and creativity in youth. We are so happy to have them back in the arena and procession wowing the crowds.

Also taking the stage is the well established since 2001 **Lucy Jane's School of Dance**, which has served the community for over 25 years! Type of classes available are ballet, tap, contemporary, freestyle, acro, cheer-dance, street-dance as well as adult fitness classes! Classes are now taught from their custom built studios in Redditch and we welcome boys and girls from 2 and a half years up to adults.



**Helena Jane Classes & Coaching** is a dance community for adults of all ages and levels of experience. Our dancers take part in weekly classes across Worcestershire and Warwickshire in ballet, tap and theatre dance, including our popular Silver Swans ballet classes which are specially designed for over 55s.

As well as attending regular classes, dancers have the opportunity to participate in community performances, plus our biennial fundraising gala. Throughout the year we also hold special events including workshops, retreats, theatre trips and social get togethers. Most importantly, we all share a love of dance and an appreciation of the many ways in which it enriches our lives physically, mentally and socially.



McGettigan's Veterinary Surgery 11:00 REGISTRATION OPENS AT RINGSIDE 14:00 CLASSES OPEN



**SPONSORED BY MCGETTIGAN VETS & REDDITCH DOG WALKING**

Please check in at the ringside at least 10 minutes before the class is due to start. If you have any questions, please contact the section steward at the registration desk, situated at the ringside.

**£2.00 entry per class | Rosettes to 3rd place.**

**ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEADS. ANTISOCIAL DOGS WILL BE EVICTED!**

Class 1. Most Fabulous Fella	14:15
Class 2. Loveliest Lady - Best Female Dog	14:30
Class 3. Best Puppy	14:45
Class 4. Most Fantastic Family - 3 or more dogs	15:00
Class 5. Best Rescue Dog	15:15
Class 6. Golden Oldie - Best Dog over 8 Years	15:30
Class 7. Friendliest Dog	15:45
Class 8. Best Paw Shaker	16:00
Class 9. Dog with the Waggiest Tail	16:15
Class 10. Best Hair Do	16:30
Class 11. Judges Favourite	16:45
Class 12. Best Condition	17:00
Class 13. Best Junior Handler	17:15
Class 14. Show Champion	17:30

## Tora's Falconry



**T**ora's Falconry is a family-run falconry business based in the heart of Staffordshire, offering unforgettable bird of prey experiences and live displays across the UK.

With a deep passion for birds and education, Tora's Falconry bring the ancient art of falconry to life through captivating static and flying displays suitable for all ages.

The team showcases a wide range of majestic raptors, including owls, hawks, and falcons, each with their own unique story and personality. Whether it's a country fair, school event, corporate function, or private celebration, Tora's Falconry provides an engaging, wholesome experience that connects people to the wonder of these incredible birds.

With years of experience and a commitment to animal welfare and public engagement, Tora's Falconry pride themselves on creating educational and entertaining displays that leave lasting memories.

### What Tora's Falconry Offer:

- **Flying Displays:** Engaging, informative, and safe demonstrations showcasing the natural behaviour and beauty of birds of prey.
- **Interactive Experiences:** Hands-on opportunities for guests to meet, learn about, and even handle some of our birds.
- **Tailored Events:** Whether you're hosting a medieval-themed day, country show, or family festival, Tora's Falconry adapt their displays to suit your theme and audience.
- **All-Ages Engagement:** Displays are designed to entertain children and adults alike — educational, fun, and full of awe-inspiring moments.

The goal is simple — to share the wonder of these incredible creatures with audiences of all kinds, leaving lasting memories and sparking curiosity in every crowd they meet.



## Recreating History

**Historia Normannis** is a 12th century reenactment group, focusing primarily on the events between the reign of Henry I and King John

Historia Normannis prides itself as a society, bringing history to life in a historically accurate, engaging and exciting way. Our events and educational visits allow people to engage with history – seeing, feeling and hearing first-hand aspects of the lives and deaths of 12th-century people – Knights, freemen, craftsmen, ladies of the court and Barons of the realm.

From dynamic and exciting massed combat, knights displaying their prowess in the tourney, displays of archery, woodwork, metalworking, to the singing and music of the court of the time, Historia Normannis presents you the workings of 12th century life, and offers a history lesson that you will never forget!



## Professor Collywobbles – Punch & Judy Show



**Step right up for a riot of laughter and glorious nonsense as Professor Collywobbles presents the timeless Punch & Judy!**

**With over 360 years of history, this traditional puppet show features the ever-mischievous Mr Punch, Judy, the Crocodile and more – packed with slapstick, surprises and plenty of audience participation.**

**Fun for all ages—loud, lively and not to be missed!**

## Vintage Belles



**£2.50 for 15 minutes to be found on the Carnival Showground 11th July 2026**

Vintage Belles is a well-established bell tent hire company based in Redditch, creating stunning bell tent setups for every occasion – from garden parties at home to unforgettable private events.

New for 2026, we're thrilled to introduce our Silent Disco Hire – the perfect way to keep the party going all day and night without worrying about noise restrictions!

We're delighted to be showcasing our Silent Disco at Astwood Bank Carnival, giving you the chance to experience the fun for yourself. Pop on a pair of headphones and choose from three different music channels – whether it's kids' tunes, teen hits, or adult favourites, there's something for everyone.

Come and have a dance, switch between channels, and discover just how much fun your own silent disco could be!



## Procession Bands 2026

The Carnival procession is a highlight for many on Carnival Day – bringing live music to the streets of Astwood Bank for 2026 are:

### The Halesowen Scout Band

Formed in 1975 from two local bands at the time. One band used black drums and the other white which is why we wear black and white neckerchiefs.

Based in Halesowen in the West Mercia District, the band have been hosted by 2nd Cradley Scout Group who have helped us make a home for ourselves there for many years now.

Halesowen Scout Band were primarily a traditional military style marching band who competed in this way at TYMBA hosted competitions all across the country. We achieved national status and performed in the world band championships in Calgary, Canada in 2004 and were awarded a silver medal for our musical ability.

As the band has grown and evolved so has our musical repertoire we now not only play our root traditional marches we also play Movie/TV themes, Chart Hits and also Jazz and Big Band numbers! The Band also annually takes part in the Birmingham International Tattoo as part of the Youth Massed Band.



### OYA BATUCADA Samba Dance Birmingham



Are looking forward to appearing at Astwood Bank Carnival once again in 2026 . Bringing the vibes and vibrations from Salvador de Bahia and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil via Birmingham!

We are always looking for more members to join us dancing or drumming or both, so if you feel inspired contact us:

[oyabatucada@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oyabatucada@hotmail.co.uk)  
[Instagram@oya\\_batucada](https://www.instagram.com/oya_batucada)  
[@sambadancebirmingham](https://www.instagram.com/sambadancebirmingham)

## Presenting this year's Carnival Royalty for 2026

We give a huge welcome to Sarah, our Carnival Queen; Aerona and Nevaeh, our Carnival Princesses; Luke, our Carnival Prince; and Eleanor and Charli, our Carnival Rosebuds!



**Sarah** is this year's Carnival Queen. She has been coming to the carnival since she was a baby and has always loved it. Over the years, she has helped with the set-up, taken part on a float, and was lucky enough to be a Carnival Princess a few years ago. Now that she is older, she is so pleased to be this year's Carnival Queen. Knowing that the carnival is not only a really fun event, but also raises money to support many local organisations, makes it feel even more special for Sarah to be part of it.

**Aerona** is 8 years old. She loves theatre at Stagecoach, playing football for Inkberrow, and circus classes at Studio24. She simply can't wait to be part of the Astwood Bank Carnival royalty!

**Nevaeh** is 8 years old. She loves playing cricket at ABCC and enjoys her big brother sharing his cricketing skills with her in the garden. She enjoys maths, crafting, going to Brownies, and doing gymnastics, and absolutely LOVES carnival day. Nevaeh is a very happy and helpful little lady and is absolutely ecstatic to be part of this year's Carnival Royalty.

**Luke** is 8 years old and has recently joined Cubs after attending Beavers. He enjoys playing the guitar at school and taking part in after-school clubs. He also attends dance classes, where he does freestyle, ballet, acro, and tap. Luke enjoys going to church youth group and likes getting involved in activities within the community. He looks forward to the carnival and helping out in the community.

**Eleanor** is 7 years old enjoys riding her bike, cooking, and baking. She is a big animal lover and adores her pet cat, Buzzy. She loves watching films, especially Moana. Eleanor looks forward to the carnival every year and is so excited to be this year's Carnival Rosebud.

**Charli** is 7 years old and loves school. She attends ABPS and was a school councillor in Year 1, as well as a member of the Eco Council. Her hobbies include aerial classes at Studio24, along with dance, acro, and musical theatre at The Performance Hub. At home, she has a hamster called Hannah. She loves building Lego with her mum and dad, playing Mario Kart, and spending time with her friends. Charli is very proud of her community.

### Give them a wave on Carnival Day!

Look out for our social media posts from March 2027, on how to get involved in next year's Carnival Royalty.

**Volunteers Wanted -  
Get Involved in  
Your Community!**

Got a few hours to spare? Want to meet new people and make a difference? Join our Community Volunteer Group! From helping at events and putting up signs to admin tasks like laminating or collecting raffle prizes - there's something for everyone. No experience needed, just enthusiasm! Have an idea or want to support a local event? We'd love to hear from you.



Scan the QR code to join our WhatsApp group and stay up to date with volunteer opportunities and events throughout the year.

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# Astwood Bank in Bloom 2026



**F**rom a very humble start in 2015 with only 13 people, Astwood Bank in Bloom is 'growing' from strength to strength, with now well over 50 volunteer members of the community working hard to keep the village looking lovely all year round with planting, watering, weeding, litter picking and generally keeping the village looking good!

What a summer we've already had! The volunteers and not just Bloom have worked really hard to make our triennial Open Gardens & Flower Festival a huge success. This year it was held in June, it is due to run again in 2029 – that seems miles away, but it isn't really!!

The Astwood Bank in Bloom ethos is to be as environmentally friendly as possible and to this end, we use peat free compost in all of the troughs and planters, compost sacks are recycled by using them as liners as well as collecting the waste from our weeding and maintenance around the village, which is then collected and composted by the Council. This year we have invested in recycled plastic troughs as part of the village display. Many of the wooden ones have seen 10 years' service and there are only so many repairs possible!

We still use bedding plants in some areas, but we try to be as sustainable as possible by using plants that can be grown on by volunteers (with winter protection), such as begonias and salvia. We sell these at the Flower and Produce Show in August at Astwood Bank Club, Dark Lane, (B96 6AS). We always have a really good selection of fabulous plants, so why not come along for our well-priced quality plants!

This year it will be help on Saturday 15th August. All are welcome, it's a lovely traditional Flower & Produce Show, with an auction of the produce too!

There are beds around the village and at the Church, that have been planted with perennial plants from the RHS 'plants for pollinators'



list. All helps to improve the environment! We recycle plant pots, re-using wherever we can or taking them to a recycling point. All of our plants are supplied by our local nursery, Botany Bay, with most of them grown there - minimum mileage!

As far as possible Astwood Bank in Bloom are self-funded, we hold various events and sales throughout the year to raise money for plants, compost etc to keep the village looking lovely.

Bloom at the Carnival - please come along and say hello to the team, for the last two years the stall was awarded with Best Stall!

As with last year there is a garden related fun Tombola, with some fabulous prizes. Adjacent

is the Children in Bloom Activity centre, it's just £1 per child (note; please supervise your child), we cannot offer creche facilities. There are lots of things to keep the little ones busy.

It might seem a bit early to be talking about Christmas, but Astwood Bank in Bloom will be holding Christmas Wreath making workshops over the weekend of the 21st & 22nd November. It will be held at Astwood Bank Club. Keep an eye on local social media for further details!

Finally as Chair, this is my last year as a member and Chair of Astwood Bank in Bloom, I have been there since the very first meeting 11 years ago. It's time to hand over to a new and younger team! I would like to extend a great big thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, Astwood Bank Community Group, Botany Bay Garden Centre and Nursery, and indeed those of you who have supported me personally, but also with donations or spending money at our stalls – Thank you!

*Tessa Hawkes*

**If you would like to join Astwood Bank in Bloom, or find out details of our events, please email [bloom@astwoodbankcg.co.uk](mailto:bloom@astwoodbankcg.co.uk)**

## WHERE ARE ASTWOOD BANK IN BLOOM NEXT?

### ASTWOOD BANK CARNIVAL

BLOOM FUNDRAISING & CHILDREN IN BLOOM ACTIVITIES STALL  
SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026  
SE DAVIS, EDGIOAKE LANE

### THE FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

MAIN BLOOM PLANT SALES  
SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2026  
THE ABC, DARK LANE B966AS

### COMMUNITY BULB PLANTING

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND  
ASTWOOD BANK

### CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 21ST & SUNDAY 22ND  
NOVEMBER 2026  
THE ABC, DARK LANE B966AS

### LIGHT UP THE BANK CHRISTMAS MARKET

BLOOM FUNDRAISING STALL  
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2026  
EVESHAM ROAD

# Fundraising



## Your Community Group 2026: At the Heart of Astwood Bank

Your Community Group is about so much more than Carnival. Through our year-round events, we've proudly donated £10,000 in the past 12 months to support local initiatives.

From the much-loved events that bring neighbours together, to the colourful flower displays that brighten our streets and the twinkling Christmas lights that warm the coldest winter evenings, our aim is simple: to help Astwood Bank thrive. And of course, when summer arrives and the roads close, the floats roll in and the buckets rattle, we come together to celebrate the very best of our community spirit.

Over the past year, we've received funding applications reflecting a truly inspiring range of local needs. These include ongoing horticultural therapy for adults with learning disabilities, equipment to support inclusive school sports and technology-based learning, services for bereaved teenagers, and holiday hampers for families facing hardship.

Supporting young people remains a key priority. We've seen initiatives focused on prevention and safety, including work around knife crime awareness, alongside projects that expand Scouting and Guiding opportunities and provide enriching camps and outings. Local sport and wellbeing are also important, with requests for cricket nets, defibrillators, and improved school basketball facilities.

We've also supported projects that care for older residents, strengthen early years development, enhance community gardening, and create inclusive shared experiences such as beach trips and theatre visits. Together, these initiatives improve wellbeing, widen access to opportunity, and strengthen connections across generations.

This year, we've introduced a new approach to funding applications to make the process more accessible and effective for the groups we support.

We're not just event organisers - we're a team of volunteers committed to giving back.

We volunteer because we care about where we live. Because we believe small, consistent actions can make a lasting difference. And because building connections today helps create a stronger, kinder, more resilient community for tomorrow.

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers. As we look ahead to 2026, we'd love to welcome new faces. Whether you can spare a few hours, help at a single event, support Carnival, assist with the Christmas lights switch-on, or get involved with Astwood Bank in Bloom, your time and energy can make a real impact.

**If you'd like to be part of something positive and rewarding, please get in touch: [getinvolved@astwoodbankcg.co.uk](mailto:getinvolved@astwoodbankcg.co.uk)**

**Let's keep building a stronger Astwood Bank — together.**

# Information on Charity Funding 2025

Charity Name	Amount donated
Ridgeway Secondary School	£600.00
Redditch Self Defence and Youth Engagement	£500.00
Where Next Association	£300.00
Carers Careline	£650.00
Astwood Bank Scout Group	£500.00
216 (Redditch) Air Cadets	£1,032.94
Midlands Air Ambulance Charity	£500.00
High Strive CIC	£500.00
Astwood Bank Welfare Association	£500.00
Studley High School	£300.00
Redditch Kingfisher Rotary	£300.00
The Koala Tree CIC	£500.00
Astwood Bank Operatic Society	£500.00
St Matthias & St George Church - Garden of Memory Project	£500.00
Astwood Bank Cricket Club	£600.00
Redditch District Explorers	£500.00
Astwood Bank Girl Guiding	£700.00
Astwood Bank Christmas Lights	£1,017.06

## Total: 10,000.00

Expect the next funding request forms out after September, if you work or are involved with a local Charity that would like to apply, we would love to hear from you.

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# Carnival Weekend Live Music Guide

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend of live music this Carnival! From soulful vinyl sets to high-energy party bands, we've got something for everyone. Be sure to check out the full band schedule on Page 15 and come out to support these immensely talented musicians



## 🎧 FRIDAY – 10 JULY



### Kicking off with...

#### 🎵 VINYL PEOPLE

Rooted in the birthplace of house music, Warwick Arthur of Vinyl People brings the authentic sound of Chicago house to life. Blending soulful origins with the energy of the 90s UK and Ibiza rave scene, expect classic piano anthems, vocal cuts, and underground grooves.

A true vinyl-only journey back to when house music was pure, raw, and emotional.

#### 🎸 SPECIAL MEASURES

A dynamic 6-piece band delivering high-energy performances packed with up-tempo rock 'n' roll and soul covers.

From vintage soul grooves to modern favourites, their versatile setlist keeps the dancefloor alive all night long. With powerful vocals, rich instrumentation, and unstoppable rhythm—their mission is simple: keep the energy high and the crowd moving.



#### ★ HEADLINERS: ELLIE JONES & THE GIANTS

Bringing a fresh and exciting energy to the stage, Ellie Jones & The Giants are guaranteed to have you singing along to both the classics you love and the ones you forgot you loved.

With a genre-spanning set that could include everything from Earth, Wind & Fire to Dolly Parton, every performance is a surprise.

Fun, vibrant, and full of personality—this is a show you don't want to miss.

Follow them:  
Facebook: @EllieJonesandTheGiants  
Instagram: @elliejonesuk



🎧 DON'T MISS OUT! Make sure you check out the full schedule on Page 15 and come along to support live music at its best.

Great music. Great vibes. One unforgettable weekend.

## 🎸 SATURDAY – JULY 11TH



### Kicking off with...

#### 🎵 THEM IMPOSTERS

Them Imposters are performing at the carnival as a dynamic duo, offering an acoustic-style set of catchy, crowd-pleasing pop, indie, rock, reggae, and more.

The band members are from Redditch and play gigs across the West Midlands.

Andy and Sumit enjoy supporting local charity events!



#### 🎸 JACK READ AND THE SHADERS

A high-energy party trio guaranteed to get the crowd going!

Blending classic pop, British rock, and indie favourites, expect hits from Fleetwood Mac, Stereophonics, Oasis, and more.

An electrifying set built for singing, dancing, and unforgettable moments.

Follow them: Facebook & Instagram: @realjackread



#### 🎵 POP VOICES

Pop Voices welcomes people of all ages and abilities with a focus on coming together to share the joy of music, mixed with a large dose of friendship in a sociable, fun and relaxed environment! We love to perform modern classics and old favourites that everyone can relate to. We don't use sheet music and our teaching methods make singing in harmony easy and enjoyable!

Join the fun every Wednesday at 7.30pm in term time – Astwood Bank Primary School.



#### ★ HEADLINERS: THE EMMA SKIPP BAND

A powerhouse 5-piece band delivering an exceptional live experience. With outstanding musicianship, stunning harmonies, and a vibrant stage presence, every performance feels like a headline event.

Frontwoman Emma Skipp brings energy beyond the stage—engaging with the crowd and creating a truly immersive show. With four vocalists in the band, expect rich harmonies, dynamic performances, and constant variety.

With connections to major acts like The Enemy and Ocean Colour Scene, this band brings professionalism, talent, and charisma in equal measure.

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# DIARY OF EVENTS 2026



FRI 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**SUMMER SUNDOWNER** SE DAVIS

SAT 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**CARNIVAL DAY** SE DAVIS

OCT - DATE TBC

ASTWOOD BANK  
IN BLOOM

**VILLAGE BULB PLANTING**

SAT 24<sup>TH</sup> OCT - SUN 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER

**SCARECROW FESTIVAL** VILLAGE

SAT - SUN 21<sup>ST</sup> - 22<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

ASTWOOD  
BANK  
IN  
BLOOM

**CHRISTMAS  
WREATH MAKING** AB CLUB

SAT 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**CHRISTMAS MARKET/  
LIGHTS SWITCH-ON** VILLAGE



**We can't wait for a fantastic year of events!**

For all information please follow the Community Group on Social Media, check out our website: [astwoodbankcg.co.uk](http://astwoodbankcg.co.uk) or visit our village notice board located at the Ridgeway Doctors Surgery, Feckenham Road!

Like and follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, there is always loads more info leading up to events...

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We still have some August 2025 Availability  
[seaview-retreat.co.uk](http://seaview-retreat.co.uk)

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
**LEGION**

**POPPY APPEAL**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**Astwood Bank Royal British Legion** raise around **£30,000** a year for our veterans through the Poppy Appeal. The majority of our funds are raised via our stand in Tesco Oakenshaw. We man the stand 9am-9pm in 2 hour shifts for the 2 weeks of the appeal leading up to the 11th of November, that is nearly 90 slots to fill. Could you spare 2 hours of your time to support this very worthwhile cause? Why not bring a friend, everything is more fun if there are two of you!

***Please drop by our stand and have a chat.***

***We look forward to seeing you soon - Astwood Bank RBL***





The Astwood Bank Welfare Association provide social support and aid for those who are over 65 years old and live in the village. We organise social events throughout the year which are made possible by different means of fund raising. With the funds raised in the last year we have organised: Monthly coffee mornings, trips to the Theatre, Weston Super Mare and Monmouth, Easter Social Event, Christmas Bingo Brunch and a Christmas Lunch with carols from the wonderful Astwood Bank Primary School choir. We also provide an Annual Christmas gift to all on our register. The funds raised keep the Welfare operational, and this is mainly achieved by our weekly Tote draw, as well as from generous donations and our stall at the Christmas Light switch on and also the Astwood Bank Club Flower show.

To help raise further funds please do sign up for the Astwood bank Tote Lottery, the cost is £1 per line, per week, and applications can be located at the Astwood Bank Club on Dark Lane or Amo's shop (Premier Feckenham Road).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the years, and to acknowledge and thanks specifically The Astwood Bank Club and Russ, Sue and all the team at the Bell for all they do for the Welfare. Special thanks also to Sam and Kacie - Tesco's Redditch's Community Champions for ensuring that the coffee morning will never run out of cake!

# ASTWOOD BANK TOTE LOTTERY

Giving back to the community in support of

**ASTWOOD BANK WELFARE ASSOCIATION**  
(Established 1966)

- Local Charity Lottery
- Raising funds for All Welfare Association
- Match 2 Numbers to win
- Choose 5 Numbers for £1
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- ★ WEEKLY DRAWS - 52 weeks of the year
- ★ NOW BIGGER PRIZES - match 2 balls to win
- ★ PAY WEEKLY, MONTHLY OR ANNUALLY

The Astwood Bank Tote Lottery has been running for over 50 years!

## REGISTER TODAY!

Follow 'Astwood Bank Welfare Association' on Facebook and click the link to register today!



We are always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested please contact Rob 07468 537834

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We are planning on having a  
**SCARY SCARECROW**  
takeover in Astwood Bank  
24TH OCTOBER TO 1ST NOVEMBER 2026



*Theme is simply all things Halloween*

If you want to enter a scarecrow please contact  
**getinvolved@astwoodbankcg.co.uk**  
before the 20th September 2026

**A spooky route map will be created and online voting for the best dressed house and business, there will also be prizes to be won.**

If you cannot enter a scarecrow please support us in going to visit the houses throughout that week, give donations and support this event to grow in the coming years.

**Please follow us on Facebook and watch out for more information!**

# Light Up The Bank

## 28TH NOVEMBER 2026

**THIS BEAUTIFUL EVENT IS GROWING YEAR ON YEAR - HERE WE ARE BACK FOR YEAR 4 IN 2026! WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE KICKING OFF THE FESTIVITIES IN OUR BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE, SO PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORE THIS YEAR!**

**YOU CAN ALSO SUPPORT BY SPONSORING OR PART SPONSORING A LIGHT! INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, MEMORIALS AND BUSINESSES, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS, OR ANY OTHER EVENT BY CONTACTING: [GETINVOLVED@ASTWOODBANKCG.CO.UK](mailto:GETINVOLVED@ASTWOODBANKCG.CO.UK)**

**IF YOU JUST WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ASTWOOD BANK COMMUNITY GROUP, PLEASE LIKE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM.**



**SCAN TO PLEDGE £5 AND HELP SUPPORT THE RUNNING OF OUR VILLAGE EVENTS**

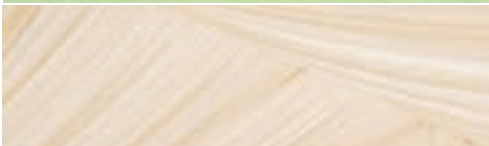




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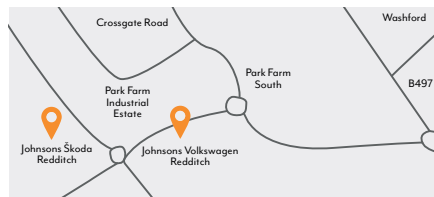
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