

# Community Call

Seventh Issue - 2008/01

Newsletter

Spring 2008

## The Chairman writes

As I write this on St. George's day all is not well in the world, but here in Ashley Green we can celebrate the beauty of the greening landscape around our homes, delight in the beauty of the white cherry growing in the grounds of the Old School and only a short walk away we can wonder at the transient beauty of the bluebells carpeting the woodland. And I can be thankful for the generally healthy state of the Community Association!

The success of the Community Association in organising an ever increasing and varied programme of events which attract growing numbers is in part due to the assurance that anyone with an idea for an event will have the cheerful backing of the events committee, which is currently headed by the sociable and competent Elizabeth Foster. With the funds raised by these events all the premises have been materially improved to some extent in recent years and have seen an increase in their use. The next major task is likely to be the resurfacing of the car parking area around the Village Hall, but the need for repair and refurbishment is constant and can only be carried out when we have sufficient funds.

I was recently given two large cardboard boxes full of the paperwork relating to the administration of the New Memorial Institute, to file. Having scanned through minutes dating from 1947, I realise that certain concerns have and probably always will reappear on the agenda at Community Association meetings - the desire to exclude those that might mistreat the facilities or disturb the 'peace' of the village from using the premises and the need to encourage more members of the community to participate in the organisation of the Association.

In order to deal with the first of these concerns we continually review our lettings policy but some problems will always occur. It is evident from the minutes that among every generation of youth there has been someone tempted to test the resistance of glass windows and light shades to a thrown object! Di Burnett, leader of the Youth Club, amazingly dedicates her Friday evenings to devising a variety of activities for the club members and deserves more support from their parents.

As to the matter of encouraging more of you to volunteer to serve on the Community Association Council, may I tempt you by saying that you would be welcomed by a loyal core of villagers. We have a full complement of honorary officers willing to serve for another year so there is no danger that you would be levered into a position you do not want.

So please attend our AGM on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, volunteer your ideas and support so that the Association might serve all of our community.

Vivienne Withall

## Diary Dates

*Make a note of the events planned in Ashley Green from now into next year.*

**Saturday 7th June**

### **SUMMER FAIR**

2.00pm on the Village Green

**Tuesday 10th June**

### **AGM**

8.00pm in the old School

**Sunday 14th September**

### **FAMILY PICNIC**

2.30pm in the Glebe

**Wednesday 5th November**

### **BONFIRE NIGHT**

Gates open at 6.00pm

**Saturday 15th November**

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

7.00 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Sunday 14th December**

### **FAMILY PARTY**

6.00pm in Village Hall

**2009**

**Saturday 14th February**

### **VALENTINE'S DINNER**

*Watch out for Posters and Flyers for more details.*

## Newsletter - Seventh Issue

*This is the seventh village newsletter and we hope you find it interesting, and informative.*

### **Next issue planned - late Autumn 2008.**

*It is YOUR newsletter so please make an effort to contribute articles, letters, news and comment, and anything to make it a success. If you have any ideas, contact a committee member or send all contributions to:-*

The Editor - 01442 874931  
[davedharmer@aol.com](mailto:davedharmer@aol.com)

# **THE REVEREND MARGARET HALL 1939 – 2008**

**Vicar at St Johns, Ashley Green 1994 - 2000**



## **THE HAPPIEST OF DAYS**

(Reproduced from "Community Call" Summer 1994)

On Sunday, 17th April 1994 the Rev Margaret Hall carried out her first full Communion Service at St John's Church in Ashley Green. The church was full: with friends from the village, from the Church in Chesham, and from further afield.

Margaret Had been ordained priest the day before by the Rt. Rev Simon Burrows, former Bishop of Buckingham, at All Saints Church, High Wycombe. Bishop Burrows had given Margaret much support and encouragement during her time working with the Church in Chesham, so it was particularly fitting that he should be able to both attend and officiate at her ordination.

## **THE SADDEST OF DAYS**

It was a tremendous shock to us all when Margaret was diagnosed with terminal cancer in early February this year. She died, on February 27th, as she had lived - positive, sure of her Christian faith, encouraging her family and friends to make the very best of their lives and preaching the love of God and his compassion for we mere mortals.

A wonderful service of celebration of her life was held in Amersham Free Church on March 6th at which many spoke of her pioneering spirit in respect of women's ordination and her determination to grow the congregation at St. John's. Her work as vicar at St Johns here in Ashley Green was fruitful, bringing new people to the church and she visited with kindly consideration those who did not particularly want to come to church, but enjoyed Margaret's company.

After her retirement in 2000, she and her husband, Brian enjoyed travelling and visiting their three children and six grandchildren. She also assisted the clergy at St. Michael's, Amersham, from time to time.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Barbara Young**

## **FUNDRAISING EVENING**

in aid of  
**BREAST CANCER CARE**  
on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>  
in the Village Hall

Any enquiries to:  
Mary Axon - 01442 866549  
Helen Stacey - 01494 772301

## BARN DANCE SUCCESS



What a Night!! Over 70 people came to dance in the Village Hall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, many of them children of all ages, and a good time was had by all.

“Cloud Burst” provided the music and the caller was our good friend Keith, who has officiated at nearly all the barn dances in the village. Despite his good offices and **undying patience**, the floor was often covered in a tangle of bodies not knowing if they were to “strip the willow” or “chain to the left”. No matter, it all worked out in the end to everyone’s great satisfaction.

The supper was a very tasty “Sausage and Mash”, featuring speciality sausages, from Ricketts the butcher in Chipperfield, followed by a sweet, so all in all a great meal too. Dancing went on until 11pm and the funds were swelled by over £600. What a success!

### Hero in Ashley Green



Elaine Quinn was asleep in her chair and Boo was in the land of cat dreams upstairs. The fire was burning merrily.

Over the road at the Old School, the Youth Club children were making cakes for Mothering Sunday. One of them in the yard noticed rather a lot of smoke and alerted Youth Worker, Philip Grace. Could it be some of the seniors having a sneaky cigarette behind the bus shelter? Were the cakes on fire?

Phil saw that the smoke came from a chimney in a house over the road and ran over to alert the unsuspecting inhabitants. Telling Mrs Quinn to evacuate, he began to search the house. “It’s alright - I’m not a burglar,” he said, as she begged him not to go upstairs. “I know that,” she replied. “but Boo (the cat) is up there and he’ll hide if he sees you”.

So, in spite of smoke fumes filling the house, our hero diligently dug the cat basket from deep inside the cupboard while Mrs Quinn rescued her beloved Boo.

Phil then proceeded to dampen the fire downstairs, using water from Elaine’s cut glass vase!

Outside, the children from the club had already hailed a passing ambulance, and the fire service had been called. Elaine was given a blanket, which she immediately put over her furry friend as fearless fireman Phil was treated for smoke inhalation.

Elaine Quinn and her husband Jim thanked Phil profusely, knowing how much worse things could have been if he had not acted so fast. I was immensely proud of Phil and the children for acting so responsibly. Most importantly, 19 year old Boo lives to tell the tail!

*Di Burnett, Youth Club leader*

## Ashley Green Youth Club

The Friday Youth Club continues to be as busy as ever. Each term there is an optional programme, or members may just make use of the facilities, ie pool, table tennis, air hockey, football, PS2 and other games.

As the summer term sets in, the club looks forward to time spent on the green playing cricket, rounders etc. Three main outings have been planned this term, ‘Low Rope Challenge’ at Green Park, Quasar and Wendover Woods. Amongst the in-club planned activities members will be tie-dyeing, cooking doughnuts, having a crazy wet and wild night and enjoying a family bar-b-cue on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Ashley Green residents are invited to join the club on this evening. Just come between 6.30pm and 8.30pm...and bring a little something to pop on the bar-b-cue. The club will also be running candy floss, face painting and tuck shop at the fete on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### General Club Details:

The club opens at 6.00pm for all members (7 years upwards). Younger members are collected between 7.30 and 8.00pm and older members (11-13 years) stay on until 9.00pm.

Central to the club is the Tuck Shop! Unfortunately not the greatest advert for healthy eating, but probably the club’s most popular feature.

Di Burnett, who runs the club, believes it should be a place where the young people can meet new friends, feel relaxed, chill out after a week at school, talk through issues that may be concerning them and essentially HAVE FUN.

Di runs the club with youth workers Ed Tamkin and Philip Grace. Parents Paul Taylor and Josie Grace also help on a regular basis. Invaluable to club are the young weekly helpers from the village, namely Jenny and Jamie Hayward and Joel Barnes. Other young people from the village help on a less regular basis.

Youth Club subs are £1.00 per night plus a termly membership of £1.00 Any outings are an additional cost.

*For more information, please call Di Burnett on 01494 773917 or 07977147273*

# DO YOU KNOW ABOUT **WORKAID**<sup>®</sup>

Self-help Worldwide

**Workaid** is a local Christian-based Organisation started over Twenty Five years ago with the aim of tackling poverty abroad mostly in East Africa, in a practical way.

Each year volunteers collect around 70 tonnes of unwanted items - tools of **EVERY** type - from all over the UK and refurbish them at the Amersham workshops. Sewing Machines, Knitting Machines Carpentry tools Typewriters, tools for engineers, leatherworkers, plumbers - the list is endless.

Once cleaned and refurbished they are packed and then shipped to vocational training projects, where people are taught to use them in skilled trades such as tailoring, carpentry, cobbling and car mechanics. Successful trainees are helped to set up their own small businesses and thus these disadvantaged people are able to earn a living and build better lives for themselves and their families.

Since 1986, Workaid has sent more than 4,350 tool kits, 7,700 sewing machines, 900 knitting machines, 6,000 typewriters, and 200 duplicators to over 1,350 training projects and thus directly improving the lives of around 40,000 disabled and disadvantaged people in some of the world's poorest areas.

Workaid is a registered charity and relies entirely on funds donated by companies, charitable trusts and individuals.

Maybe you have tools that can be cleaned and refurbished, or have some spare time to help in the Amersham workshops?

*Please contact the Editor for details.  
Phone 01442 874931 or Email  
[davedharmar@aol.com](mailto:davedharmar@aol.com).*

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## News From St Johns

The most exciting news is that after an interregnum of two years the Parish of Great Chesham will have a Rector and Team Leader. The Revd. Simon Cansdale will be inducted in the Parish by the Bishop of Buckingham on Thursday 12th June. On Sunday, 29th June, he will be conducting our Service of Holy Communion at 9.30am. As he will, constitutionally, be the Vicar of St. John's, everyone will be especially welcome at this service to meet him.

Coffee/tea and croissants will be served from 8.30am on that morning, so you can meet him informally before the service.

Another piece of exciting news is that at long last we have managed to secure the approval of the Victorian Society, English Heritage and the Diocese for our plans to install a toilet, small kitchenette and separate meeting room at the west end of the Church. Detailed building plans are now being drawn and then quotations for the construction costs will be sought.

The plans are displayed inside the Church and so of course can be viewed on any Sunday when the Church is open from 9.00am until 11.00am or by request to a Churchwarden. It is our intention to open the Church on the afternoon of the Village Fair, Saturday 7th June, so please come in then to look at the plans or simply to enjoy the peace and glory of this "perfect example of the architect G.E. Street's work" as English Heritage describes St. John's.

The Ashley Green burial ground regulations

The following information is written to forestall any misunderstanding of the regulations governing the burial ground in Ashley Green, situated on the corner of the junction of Hog Lane and the main Chesham Road.

The burial ground is an extension to the churchyard that surrounds the Church of St. John the Evangelist which was built in 1873 on land that was gifted by Lord Chesham. In 1990 St. John the Evangelist became a district church within the Parish of Great Chesham in the Diocese of Oxford. The churchyard and burial ground fall into the category of an "open Anglican churchyard" and they are consecrated to their purpose in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In order to protect this special status rules have to be laid down and observed.

Anyone who lives within the parish has the right to burial in this ground, but the burial must be conducted according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England.

Interment of the coffin, or cremated remains, in the burial ground, may be a right for all parishioners, but the erection of a memorial over a grave, though now customary, is not a privilege. Strictly speaking nothing may be introduced into a burial ground belonging to a church without the authority of the incumbent, who is the Rector of the Parish of Great Chesham.

The incumbent may normally grant permission for the erection of a simple memorial made of natural stone or hardwood, and is entitled to designate the place for the grave, unless a space has already been reserved, the depth of that grave and the material of the coffin to be buried.

Maintenance of graves and memorials is the responsibility of relatives of the deceased, but the maintenance and management of the grounds is the responsibility of the incumbent and the church council.

Further information can be found in a leaflet which is displayed in the porch of St. John's, or from the Churchwardens.



On the night of the 2nd February the Village Hall became the "White Lion Public House" where a dastardly murder was committed - with the aid of the Rickmansworth Players.

Over 100 villagers and friends took part in the evening, quaffing a few drinks from the bar, eating a 3 course meal and still finding time to do some sleuthing in an attempt to bring the murderer to justice with the assistance of the players.

Such was the popularity of the event, that the evening was over-subscribed by budding detectives, so that only a limited number could be accommodated.

(Note:- Book early since Ashley Green events are very popular and you wouldn't want to be disappointed.)

The events committee are to be praised for all their help and the evening's success which raised funds by £1,380.00p.

This was the first time such an event has been held here and comments that may help to improve any further attempt would be welcome.

Helen Stacey & Margaret Flowers

# Our Police Community Support Officers



*PCSO Les Roche and PC Melvin Mutch on the Green*

*You will be aware that Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) have been introduced as a level of additional support to the Police in the UK, but you may not know their role in the community or how to contact them, or even for what.*

*That is about to change since we now fall into an area called "Chesham Rural" and which has been assigned a neighbourhood team consisting of a Police Constable and Police Community Support Officers, so we welcome PC Melvin Mutch, and PCSO's Les Roche and Darren Scott.*

*Their "Patch" in "Chesham Rural" stretches from Pednor, and The Lee in the west, Buckland Common, Chartridge, Asheridge, and Bellingdon, in the north and then to Ashley Green, Ley Hill, and Latimer in the east and south.*

*So, what do they do?*

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*In Lesley's own words:-*

*"We are uniformed, highly visible members of police staff, whose role is to build links in the community.*

*We have been tasked with identifying the issues for our areas and working with our partner agencies, such as schools, Parish and District Councils, Emergency Services, etc to address these.*

*We will be used to tackle problems with antisocial behaviour, and have powers to confiscate tobacco and alcohol, carry out road checks, and remove vehicles that are either obstructing or abandoned. We are able to assist in the investigation of crime, but do not get involved in the more high risk tasks that police officers perform, and so do not carry handcuffs, captor spray, or a baton.*

*Most PCSO's spend most of their time on foot patrol I however, am the exception to the rule, since the patch is so large it would take all day to walk to Ashley Green and back.*

While I might see a couple of horses on the way. I put forward an idea that I become the very first mounted PCSO (being a horsey girl) but I do not think that Thames Valley Police are very keen on the idea, so you will probably see me in a proper police car so please feel free to flag me down for a chat.

I will be stopping to wander around in my high visibility jacket from time to time, so if you see me why not come and say "Hello".

PC Mutch, PCSO Scott and myself will be part of the neighbourhood action group (NAG) which is made up of parish district and county councillors and also members of the public, to tackle issues in the rural community.

It has been made clear from a public meeting at Bellingdon, that the priorities in the area are speeding, fly tipping and potholes, and we will be working with our partners to try and resolve these problems. Fly Tipping is one of my pet hates, and will anyone who sees it contact me, give me a precise location, and if you can, the vehicle registration of the culprit and I will do my best to get the rubbish removed quickly, and pass on the details for prosecution.

I personally, am keen to come along to your community groups and hope to arrange an evening out with Di Burnett with the youth club. Please contact me if you would like me to attend any of your clubs or events, and I will bring the crime prevention van with me, or failing that I will just come along to meet you.

I am also keen to start promoting "Farmwatch" and the "Horsewatch Scheme" in the area and am soon to be trained to mark tack.

Please contact me on the numbers below if you would like any more information or anything you feel I can help you with.

**CALL 0845 8 505 505** and use our Collar Numbers and names.

- C9418 LES ROCHE
- C9334 DARREN SCOTT
- PC6150 MELVIN MUTCH

The operator will then advise you which of the officers is on duty, and put you through. If we are busy there is an answer phone facility."

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*So, keep your eyes open and welcome our "team" when you see them, and if you have any issues - pass them on.*

***Finally - Please remember that for real emergencies 999 is still the number to call, but all other calls are now dealt with on the central number 0845 8 505 505.***

## Adverts and Announcements

Advertise your enterprise or activity here. Contact us with details of what you want.  
(There is a charge for **Commercial Businesses**: Eighth Page (approx.) - £5. Quarter page - £10)



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The Lettings Officer : 07979 634988 or 01442 874834

Email - [ashley.halls@btinternet.com](mailto:ashley.halls@btinternet.com)

Ashley Green & District Community Association. Registered Charity No. 292478

### **Not a Member?**

Join us and take an active part in your village.  
Annual Fees are only £5.00 per person.  
Family rates too!

Contact our membership secretary.  
01442-876965