

# COMMUNITY CALL

Edition 2009/02

Read it on our website [www.ashleygreen.org.uk](http://www.ashleygreen.org.uk)

Autumn 2009

## WELCOME ROGER WATTS OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Earlier in the year our chairman of three years, Vivienne Withall, stood down to make way for Roger Watts who came forward to take the reins.



*Roger smiles at the start of his tenure*

Vivienne has worked tirelessly to improve the wellbeing of the community, and done tremendous work over the past three years.



You see her here at the handover where Roger made a presentation of flowers as a token of thanks by her friends and colleagues on the Community Council. Well done Vivienne, and thanks from all of us for everything you have done.

Roger pledges to try to keep up the good work, and we wish him the best of luck.

## FROM THE CHAIR

May I welcome you all to this edition of Community Call, which I hope you will find interesting and informative.

As your new chairman I feel like a relative new boy on the block, and remember the day we moved into the village only two days after 9/11 in 2001. Fortunately, we knew people in the area and we were very quickly welcomed into the bosom of the community. You see what happens, however, as soon as you put your head above the parapet you get roped onto Committees and end up being Chairman. Here I am, and although I know there are some challenges ahead I wouldn't miss it for the world.

This is a community with great spirit and drive. When we put on events like the Summer Fair it never ceases to amaze me how many of you give up your spare time to put something back into your community and to raise funds for the numerous events and for the maintenance of our buildings. If I started to thank everyone for their contributions we would end up with a book rather than a newsletter. Suffice to say communities like this only work if we all pull together and do our bit no matter how small, and even if you think it's time for a change, I would hope you would help out not least in roping in new members who might be persuaded to lend a hand. I am looking forward to the events which are always great fun and which will be happening over the coming months.

I have already learnt however, that living in a village has its upsides and downsides. Don't get me wrong. The upsides far outweigh the downsides - unruly parties at the village hall, wayward gardeners and the occasional accident for example - which take more time to resolve than one would like rather than dealing with the fun things.

The Community Association is here to enhance village life and one of our major issues is the maintenance of our facilities. As I hope you all know we have our splendid Village Hall with new chairs and new kitchen and bar facilities. We also look after the cluster of buildings opposite The Golden Eagle including The Old School, Wykes Room and Green Room.

At the moment The Wykes Room is used principally by the Youth Club and they have rather cleverly liberated a grant which has enabled the interior of the building to be very substantially refurbished over the summer. To match this the Community Association will be renewing windows and undertaking other repairs in the near future.

Our Meetings are held in the Old School, but I am never certain who we will have to share our space with.

There are furniture restorers, art classes, bridge clubs and many, many others using all the buildings on a daily basis. If you want to know more about what's happening in your village do look at the website - [www.ashleygreen.org.uk](http://www.ashleygreen.org.uk).

The important thing, therefore, is that we look to maintain these facilities and improve and enhance them for years to come. Over recent years a lot has been spent on the internal facilities and these are now well set for the future. I have, however, just undertaken a general review of the state of repair of the buildings and it is the case that we are going to have to spend monies on carrying out further external decorations and repairs. To be able to fund this we do need to hold events which require your support. The principal aims of these events is always to have fun but if we can clear a few pounds profit as well then this money can be channelled back into our facilities.

There are couple of more major projects we are looking at in the short term and that is the creation of an extension to the Village Hall which will allow us to improve our storage facilities and get back the stage and the dressing room areas. In the Old School it would be great to create more storage space so that we can claim back our office.

Fortunately, our finances have been ably marshalled over the last few years by Jane Rimington and we are in reasonable financial health. (Thanks Jane for all your hard work). If we are to do some of the more major works, however, we might need you to dig a little deeper. You will know, however, how very economic the events in the village are compared with other more commercial events, so I am sure we can count on your support.

We have had some great events over recent months including the pub games evening for families, the Fair, our Valentines Dinner and the recent horseracing evening and quiz night. One of my favourites was the comedy night. There was as much fun to be had watching one of the young comedians squirm trying to come to grips with his audience as there was by the great acts which also appeared. I must extend my thanks to all of those involved with our events committee. Do keep up the good work. I know there are some great events planned over the course of the next year.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Party but if not I wish you well for the festive season.

**Roger Watts (Chairman).**

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## Sporting Roundup

Did you know we had a sporting celebrity in the village? Well, here are two headlines that appeared in July in the Bucks Examiner. Did you see them??

### Medals Haul for Kate, 16 and

“Kate Ryde from Ashley Green, Bucks, completed a dazzling season with a gold and silver medal at the National Rowing Championships held in Nottingham at the national Water Sports centre. She rowed stroke in the women's Junior 16 pair with Gabby Watson to take the Gold medal, and shortly after to take the Silver medal in the four.

Prior to that success she and her partner had rowed in the Anglo French junior regatta at Cardiff.

Despite terrible weather conditions which caused the racing to be delayed after boats sank in the choppy waters, they eventually raced against two French crews - one manned by French Olympic potentials - and after a slow start went on to beat both boats by three lengths.” *Courtesy Bucks Examiner*

A fine performance from the girls, and Kate could become an Olympic contender, although she acknowledges that it will be hard to claim a spot in the squad, such is the level of competition. Ed.

### Kate rows UK to debut gold



■ OAR INSPIRING: Above, Kate in the front of the boat with partner Gabby Watson bringing up the rear; right, Kate after the race  
(Photo courtesy of the Bucks Examiner)



*Kate rows at Maidenhead Boat club.*

*We wish her every success.*

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## Editorial

Here is the tenth edition of your own village newsletter. It is for YOU so we try to include everything you send in.

All comments and suggestions, pieces for the newsletter to:-

**David Harmer - Editor**

Call:- 01442 874931 or Email [davedharmer@aol.com](mailto:davedharmer@aol.com)

# COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS PAGE

## EVENTS IN ASHLEY GREEN

As you will know, the Community Association stages a number of events throughout the year for the entertainment of the villagers and their friends, as our chairman notes in his report, as well as raising funds which are used to continue the programme of refurbishment and maintenance of the buildings we manage

The committee who organise these try to bring new and interesting events each year and have been most successful so far, but are always looking for additional ideas. If you have such an idea, or want to get involved why not contact us.

*Call Elizabeth Foster on 01442 873279.*

The annual fair is an event which probably takes the most organisation, and we need lots of help in the planning stages, and the more helpers that we have on the day the easier it is for everyone.

We **really do** need more volunteers to help in every way next year from the planning stages as well as on the day itself.

If you want to run a stall or a side-show, or help someone else run theirs, put on a display to promote a local charity, act as a Marshall, help with the clearing up afterwards (*something often forgotten at the end of the day!!*) or have a great idea for next year, then please contact us.

*Rodney Newth - 01442 878795 Gavin Rennie - 01442 864812.*

## Diary Dates List - to June 2010

- **Quiz Night - Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Memorial Hall. 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Bar.  
£10 per head (includes supper). Teams of 6.
- **Advent Fair - Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Village Hall 11am - For St John's church.
- **Family Christmas Party - Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Memorial Hall. 6.00pm  
Mulled wine, refreshments, Father Christmas, Carols.  
(No entry fee for AGCA members.)
- **Family Carol Service - Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
St John the Evangelist - 6.00pm.
- **Barn Dance - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**  
Memorial Hall. Time to be announced.  
*Organised by, and for, St John's.*
- **Event (to be decided) - Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Watch for details!!
- **May Ball - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May**  
Watch for details!!
- **The Annual Fair - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June**  
Watch for details!!

Call 01442 - 873279 for details and also watch out for Flyers/Posters nearer the event or visit the web site

[www.ashleygreen.org.uk](http://www.ashleygreen.org.uk)

## THE MEMORIAL HALL

The Memorial Hall (known as the Village Hall) can seat up to 150 people, and with the recent installation of a fully equipped, brand new, kitchen, and new toilets we can now cater with large scale events such as wedding receptions and other functions with ease.

Recently we replaced the chairs in the hall, so we have brought the seating to the highest possible standard.

Many other works are planned to continue to improve all the buildings we have available - The Village Hall (*the Memorial Hall*) the Old school, the Wykes room and the Green room.

**For details of hiring, see the back page.**

## ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE

There is a lot going on in Ashley Green on a regular basis!!

Have a look at this list of some of them and see if there is something for you.

**Art Group** Monday Evenings. Old School .  
7.30pm

**Bridge Club** Wednesday evenings. Old School  
7.15pm.

**WI** Second Thursday in Month Old School  
7.45pm

**Youth Club** Fridays Old School  
6.00pm

**Morton** ) Monday to Friday Old School  
**Montessori** ) 9am to 3pm  
**School** ) Ages 2 years to 5 years

**Yoga** Monday Old School  
8.00pm

**Pilates** Various classes - Three days a week

**Dance Class** Children aged 5 - 10 Village Hall  
**\*\* NEW\*\*** See ads page for details.

**Duplicate** Thursday Village Hall  
**Bridge** 7.15pm

Call for full details, or visit the Ashley Green Website.

If your activity is **NOT** included or we have the details wrong, contact the editor directly on 01442 874931.

### **Join the Community Association**

Take an active part in your village. Meet your neighbours, come to some events, and get involved. Annual fee is just £5.00 and there are family rates too. Contact the membership Secretary on 01442 876965

## RACE NIGHT - October 10<sup>th</sup>



The eagerly anticipated race night occurred on 10<sup>th</sup> October at a venue to rival Ascot - the Ashley Green village hall - where we saw the return of the televised 8 horse races (and the complete lack of ferrets). The Tote, run by the Youth club, was highly successful with the young bookies positively competitive in their pursuit of the punters.

The first race of the night, The Lankey Steeplechase, an interesting description for a pony and trap race, was won by a horse called Dobbin with Up Yours a close contender. The owner, Liz Ellis, positively radiated on receiving the rosette and a bottle of fizz.

The second race of the night, the Arty Cup, was won by Ginger Nut, owned by Diana Reay, and by the time of the next race - the Fencing Stake - the Tote was almost besieged by the punters.

At this stage, the racegoers were treated to a one-course meal of traditional fish and chips, with tomato ketchup qualifying as the 'one-of-five-a-day'. It is understood that many of the punters felt that the beer and wine was a most satisfactory starter and dessert, and certainly most agreeable in washing down this sumptuous banquet.

Nanny Mai's Mount, owned by Tim Hayward was the runaway victor in the Trident Trophy. A particularly popular winner given the hard work put into the event by Tim and his crew. Our great thanks for all their efforts.

The Butcher's Boys, owned and trained by Jo Butcher, was a comfortable winner in the tongue-twisting Berkhamsted Art and Crafts Gold Cup, and the next race, the eagerly awaited Greystoke Handicap, was won by Shergar, under the ownership of Paul and Natalie. Two of the slower horses, Suave Harvey and Saucy Sue seemed to enjoying each other's company more than the race.

The Adam Painter Computer Services Sweepstake, which was the second to last race of the night, was won by Bertie Boy owned by Helen Stacey with Dainty Di, owned by Di Burnett, making a valiant charge at the last.

Finally the signature race, the Two Dells Auction Stakes, was upon us. Serious money changed hands before the start of the race as high rollers bid furiously for the horses on offer. A total of £245 was pledged in buying the horses, half of which became the winner's purse. The outcome of the race was always in question until the last furlong when Saran, owned by table 1, a rank outsider, stormed through from the rear of the field to clinch the race.

The owners were beside themselves with joy and rich beyond their wildest dreams.

Our thanks go to the generous sponsors of the races, Landkey Building Services, [www.prettyarty.com.uk](http://www.prettyarty.com.uk), G&MB Manning, Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts, Trident Building Consultancy, Malcolm Rimington and Adam Painter Computer Services. Our thanks also to Thoroughbred Productions, but mostly to Tim Hayward and his team for organising such a successful event.

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## Pub Games - September 12<sup>th</sup>

A fantastic family evening was had by all, on this fun filled evening, at the Old School.

Neighbours of all ages attended to play some old games, such as Whist and table skittles and to learn some new ones. It was a close call as to whether the children or the adults had the most fun, but as all the games were family games it was wonderful to be playing all together.

Roger Macklin, as usual, arranged this free family event and heartfelt thanks go to him for his efforts.



He also introduced us to a very enjoyable but relatively straightforward darts game, which was highly contested and eventually won, by Karen Fallon and Anna Macklin.

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## THE ASHLEY GREEN BRIDGE CLUB

The Ashley Green Bridge Club meets in the Old School on Wednesday evenings at 7.15 for 7.30 pm.

This Club is extremely friendly and would welcome new members to play Chicago and Rubber Bridge.

Individual players are welcome as we cut for partners.

It is informal and tea or coffee and biscuits are provided. The cost for an evening's play is £2.00.

Please contact Keith or Elizabeth Foster on 01442-873279 for details.



## THE ASHLEY GREEN SUMMER FAIR.

There had been much activity in Ashley Green in the months leading up to the Annual Summer fair, and a lot of anticipations for another wonderful day. New members had been co-opted on to the organising committee, plans laid on computer, so what could go wrong??

The forecast for June 6<sup>th</sup> was not good. Rain was forecast for the morning clearing for a dry afternoon, so contingency plans were made to re-locate more stalls under cover in the village hall should things look bad.



The morning dawned wet and dreary - the forecast was right for a change! In fact it poured constantly and there was a fine mist everywhere and things did not look good. Nevertheless a brave band of helpers turned up, all dressed in oilskins and heavy weather clothing and began to set up with the conviction that it would pass by mid morning. The stalls went up, pergolas were set up, ropes and bunting laid out and soon it began to look as if the fair was almost ready - except for the rain.

Mid morning came and went, and the helpers got wetter and wetter with no sign of a break in the clouds.

Then it began to ease a little, and the stallholders turned up and began to set out their wares, looking hopefully at the skies. With about an hour to go, the rain stopped. Hooray!!



Well, what can we say? People turned up in droves, the dog show went ahead, the side-shows were crowded, teas were served, the tug-o-war tugged (Ashley Green lost again), and people were having a good time so the work had been worth while, and the early soaking forgotten. We even managed to throw wet sponges at Gordon!! (Our Chairman in disguise!!)



Numbers attending were slightly down on the previous year but overall net proceeds to Association funds were a little up so all in all another success.

Thanks to all you brave people who defied the threat of rain and enjoyed the event, and to everyone who helped man the stalls, side-shows and all the other activities.

A special vote of thanks to all on the organising committee which had a new Chairman, Gavin Rennie, this year and his assistant Rodney Newth, a newcomer to the village, who found himself suddenly projected into the thick of things on the day as Gavin had to attend a wedding - well done Rodney, a great effort. Thanks too, to Mary Axon who was there to offer all assistance with the experience of running the fairs in previous years.



**The date for the 2010 Fair is Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June.**  
Put it in your diary now!!

# Marian Betty Manning

née Kite

8<sup>th</sup> September 1929 - 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009



Marian Betty Kite was born on September 8<sup>th</sup> 1929. Or was she, since her father mistakenly registered her birth on September 9<sup>th</sup>, so she had two birthdays each year - just like the Queen.

She was born in Banbury, the fifth child of six and the family was not well off due to her father's ill health but what they lacked in material things they more than made up for in their love and companionship.

She had hoped to become a nurse but an appendix operation prevented her attending the interview, so she went on to become a junior accounts clerk where she developed her love of figures. That is where she met her husband to be for the first time. Then she moved on to become secretary at a boys prep school - a job she really enjoyed - and met up with him again and they were married in Banbury in 1953.

They came to Ashley Green in 1954 and brought a plot of land known as "Four Acres" and lived in a caravan while the house was being built. Three years later Christine, her daughter was born, and it was about then that Marian started a poultry farm, rearing hens to "point of lay", often 1000 at a time, and getting her young daughter to catch them for vaccination since she was then pregnant with her second daughter, Barbara.

Her poultry customers also wanted poultry equipment and wire, so a supply business was a natural progression and G & MB Manning was founded in the early 1960's and incorporated in 1968. Marian used to buy hundreds of rolls of wire netting from Ireland and despatch them by train from Berkhamsted to customers all over the country. Money was still quite tight and holidays rare, the destination often being determined by a spot of debt collecting.

Marian was proud of this business and the fact that it grew steadily year on year so that nearly 50 years on Manning's business is still trading, and is a well established part of Ashley Green.

She was proud of the staff who worked for Manning's and treated them like an extended family. She enjoyed the business, was scrupulously honest and fair and worked tirelessly throughout her life, remaining as Financial Director of the company to the end, even issuing instructions on the way to the hospice.

With all this activity you would have thought she deserved a rest, but instead she was a great supporter of her pony-mad daughters, and spent years trailing round a multitude of horsey events. With great enthusiasm she became secretary and then District Commissioner of the Old Berkeley Hunt Chilterns Branch of The Pony Club, and was given the Cubit Award for 20 years service.

Twenty four years ago she developed a heart condition and had quadruple heart bypass surgery performed by Professor Yacoub at Harefield Hospital - new and radical surgery at the time - and at her death was one of the longest surviving bypass patients.

Her husband died in 2001, and although outwardly she seemed to cope, she found it harder than friends and family realised.

However she found great joy five years ago when her daughter, Barbara, presented her with a grandson, and later with a granddaughter, both of whom brought a new dimension to her life.

Having lived in Ashley Green for fifty five years the village and the people in it were close to her heart. She enjoyed worshipping in the church, and was fully involved in her other activities - her bridge group, the art classes and the Women's Institute.

She was truly a great character and will be sorely missed.

*(This tribute was made possible with the help of Marian's daughters Christine and Barbara)*

## News from St John's

When I was commissioned as the Minister for St John's Ashley Green in April we had just celebrated Easter, now Christmas items are in the shops and adverts for toys are appearing on our TV screens. But before Christmas comes Advent. A time of preparation and waiting for the birth of Jesus, just as Lent is a time of preparation for the events leading up to Easter. At St John's our service on 29<sup>th</sup> November will mark the start of Advent with an Advent Carol service.

A priority for my first year with St John's has been to take a look at our children's work. As a result we have started a group for pre-school children, their parents and carers which meets in church from 1.30 - 2.30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. A short child friendly service is followed by plenty of time for the children to play while the adults enjoy refreshments. We would welcome new members so please contact me if you would like more information or alternatively just turn up.

We are also planning a children's event in the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> for all children aged 9 or under. I hope to be able to give you more details in our December Newsletter and at the Christmas services but for the moment please put the date in your diary.

Other exciting news is that at long last we have permission to build the kitchen and toilet at the back of church. This work will start on 6<sup>th</sup> January and take about eight weeks to complete. I understand that we need to link into the sewage system in the village and I am assured by the contractors that they will do everything they can to keep any disruption to a minimum.

Finally thank you to those of you I have met for the support you have given me as I settle into my new role. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future. I would also like to say that I hope to welcome you to the Christmas services and celebrations at church..

I wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas  
*Hilary Wilson (Revd)*

## Christmas Services in St John's

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am - Advent Carol Service.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 3pm - Christingle service.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 6pm - Carol Service.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December - **Christmas Eve**  
4.30pm Crib Service.  
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December - **Christmas Day**  
9.30am Family Christmas Celebration.

There will also be a Carol service at 6pm on 13<sup>th</sup> December in the Old church Whelpley Hill.

## Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

The NAG meeting in October was held at the Old School for the second time. John and I always like it when we don't have to travel too far on these cold dark nights, and it is our turn to host instead.

Although speeding remains on the agenda and monitoring (and ticketing) continues to be carried out by the our local police team, a lot of discussion at our recent meetings have been specific to this time of the year and the type of crimes which are more common.

Ashley Green has had more than its fair share of burglaries and thefts during the last few weeks, both from dwellings and from vehicles. In all, 14 separate offences have been reported to the police during October alone, one involved a hot air balloon and another the use of a laser light to endanger an aircraft! Additionally a couple of other offences have taken place at the petrol station.

### **Autumn/Winter Advice**

P.C. Kevin Flint stressed that burglaries and thefts are particularly prevalent at this time of year. As it gets darker earlier, burglars tend to target houses in the early afternoon, around 3.30 - 5.00pm, when the absence of lights, indicate clearly that a house is empty. It is worth investing in timer switches or make sure that you leave lights on if you go out.

Please report all sightings of suspicious people or cars around the village. These will be then logged and can be cross referenced and followed up should anything untoward occur both here and in our neighbouring villages.

Theft from sheds and outhouses increase at this time of the year too as opportunistic thieves look out for garden equipment/tools which they can use to break into houses.

Be aware of people selling door to door. They require a "Peddler's Certificate", which they should be able to produce? I didn't. Watch also for people claiming to want access to read a meter. If you are concerned please call the police on 08458 505505 to check out these callers for you. Be aware that if they produce a card with number for you to call, it may be bogus.

Once the frosty mornings come along, it is very common for car thieves to cruise around looking for cars with the keys left in the ignition on the drive to defrost so be warned!

P.C. Flint has offered to hold a Crime Prevention Day in the Ashley Green where the team can give us a lot more advice and assures us that they have lots of freebies to give out such as timer switches, personal and shed alarms and such like. John and I have agreed to try and find a suitable day and we do hope that you will support it and come along.

Our next meeting is in January so please if you would like John and I to raise anything or your behalf just call or email us.

*Jacquie Rose and John Axon - (Your NAG representatives)*

# Adverts

Advertise your enterprise or activity here. Contact us with details of what you want.

There is a small charge for **Commercial Businesses**: Apply for details.



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**Old School & Village Hall**  
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 Excellent facilities in convenient location.  
 Rooms suitable for Meetings, Events, Parties and all activities.

**The Old School:-**  
 Two rooms which can be joined to make one and take up to 80 people.  
 Bar and Kitchen.

**The Village Hall:-**



This has a stage, and can take up to 150 people.  
 Brand new Kitchen facilities with glassware, crockery & cutlery. Bar.  
 Well heated and with Ample car parking. Secure grounds at Old School.

For further information and bookings call:  
 The Lettings Officer : 07979 634988 or 01442 874834  
 Email - [lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk](mailto:lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk)

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



**Step to it**  
 DANCE ACADEMY

Dance classes for children aged 5-10 in tap, ballet and jazz on:

Tuesday Evenings  
 at  
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To register for a place or for more information call:  
**07934096191**  
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