

COMMUNITY CALL

Edition 2011/02

See "What's New" on our website.

Autumn 2011

www.ashleygreen.org.uk

All the fun of the Fair

Another great day in Ashley Green with weather looking good and helpers dashing around to finalise the setting up of the stalls and side-shows on the village green.

This time all the stalls were sited on the green, rather than some being on the Glebe, as last year, where they were a little out of the main flow of people and did not do so well.

At the end of the green - nearest the Golden Eagle - there was an arena specially for the classic car show. Over forty super cars turned up, and what a splendid variety too.

There was the obedience dog show, children's races, tug of war and plenty of ice cream and candy floss. The barbecue did very well too, the plant stall sold out, and the coconut shy attracted a goodly number of hopefuls. No - the nuts were not glued down!!.

As every year in the past the girls beat the boys at tug of war, but then they probably had the advantage of numbers (as they usually do)!



Tossing the Hay Bale got all the lads involved in great displays of strength, and after a lead by one of the committee, the ladies began to hurl the bales about too.

When it was all over there was a bit of a lull, and then the evening barbecue started and people were sitting on the green until late at night congratulating themselves on a great day. **Well done everyone!!**

Editor: David Harmer
01442 874931

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What's On Summary

Film Club

Friday November 11th

Snail Race

Saturday November 12th

Quiz Night

Saturday November 26th

Advent Fair

Saturday December 3rd

Village Christmas Party

Sunday December 11th

(FREE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS)

Murder Mystery Evening

Saturday January 21st

St. John's Concert

Saturday March 24th

Spring Ball

Saturday April 21st

Queen's Jubilee

Bank Holiday Monday, June 4th.

Lunch & Evening "Do" TBA

Annual Village Fair

Saturday July 7th.

For details see the notice board at the Village Hall, visit the website, or call 01442 873279

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer needed to help with the production of "Community Call" and development and maintenance of the Website.

Knowledge of MS Word or Serif PagePlus desktop publisher is needed, as well as some skills with graphics and photo editing!

Contact us by Email if interested at:

info@ashleygreen.org.uk

NEW! COLOUR! NEW!!

We are experimenting with two pages in **COLOUR** in this issue!

WHAT DO YOU THINK??

You can see **ALL** pages in **COLOUR** on our website - along with lots, lots more. Go and have a look!!

From the Chair - Interesting Times

We live in what is undoubtedly a small village yet it is one with a big heart, and in the middle of the village there are a huddle of buildings including the old school, the Wykes Room and the Green Room and the Memorial Hall all around the village green.

It would probably be enough if we just looked after these buildings and put on the occasional social event but the fact is there is always a lot going on in, and around, Ashley Green. So? Where to start?

The local football team, the old Kolsassians are very keen to return to the village and to use the playing field. However, they are struggling to create a working group to drive the project forward. There is much to think about in terms of ownership, planning, works and the like which makes for an extremely interesting project. I am sure many of you would agree that it would be excellent to get this sporting facility back in operation again but, some assistance would be greatly appreciated.

We are now moving forward with the extension to the memorial hall. Plans and details are being prepared. The advantage of this project is that we will be able to remove the seating and tables from the stage and leave this free for more ready use. Having the extension for the storage of equipment will also make it much easier to prepare the room for its various uses.

Finally, the renewal of the fencing around the graveyard has been completed, and we are extremely happy to acknowledge the support of **G&MB Manning** in Hog Lane, who have very generously donated all the timber to allow this long neglected feature to be overhauled.

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The Community Association has covered the cost of the work to erect the fencing, and Matthew Rance (one time resident here) of **Wood Image**, was commissioned to do it.



Call: 01494 758267

In amongst all of the serious business we have had a good bit of fun. This years summer fair was a superb day not least because the weather was extremely kind to us.

The whole event was again bigger and better and ably organised by Gavin Rennie and his team.

I was particularly pleased to see that the vintage car event was even larger this year with some splendid models on show.

One of the more interesting events held this year was a bat watch event hosted by the South Bucks Bat Group. It was great fun to gather in the memorial hall and then to venture out on to the Glebe with Bat o Meters. Hot chocolate and bat cookies were enjoyed by all after.

Looking forward to the immediate future, we have the Quiz night. This will be in a slightly different format this year but will be as much fun I am sure. I am sorry if I end up on your table. I am truly useless at quizzes.

My thanks go to Roger Macklin who has again organised the film club which already has planned a full programme of movies through the year.

How time flies. By the next AGM I will have done three years and will be passing the baton on (subject to due process) to David Hurling. I do hope he has much fun as I have done. *Roger Watts - Chairman*

THE FILM CLUB

The Ashley Green Film Club started up again in early October with the showing "Limitless", followed by "Toy Story" at the end of the month - and all on the new HD projector and 3m screen.

The remaining programme into 2012 is as follows:-

Friday November 11th

Friday December 2nd

Friday January 6th

Friday February 3rd

Sunday February 19th

Friday March 2nd

Friday April 6th

Friday May 4th

Life of Brian (15)

Bridesmaids (15)

Paul (15)

**Eternal Sunshine of the
Spotless Mind (15)**

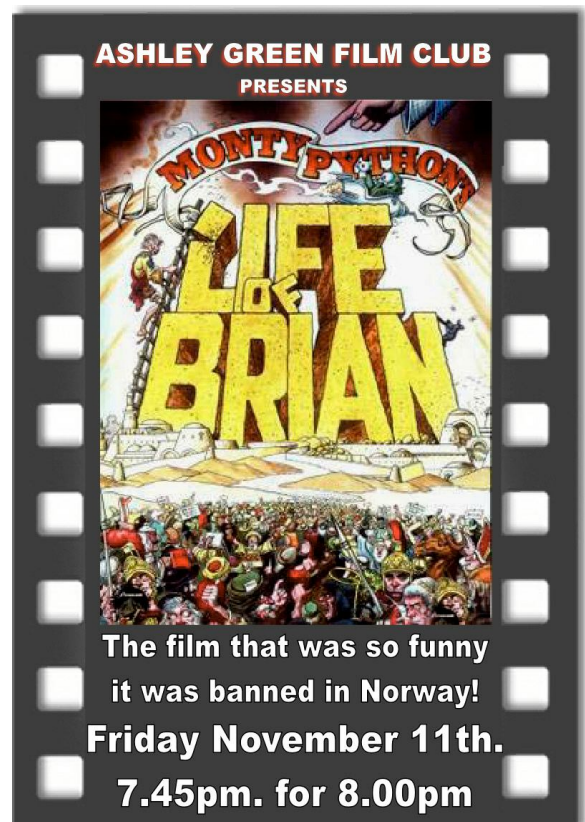
Rio (U)

Jane Eyre (PG)

Fargo (18)

Chariots of Fire (U)

Next showing is "Life of Brian"



**The film that was so funny
it was banned in Norway!**

Friday November 11th.

7.45pm. for 8.00pm

This season's subscription is just £10 per adult and £5 for under 15s, and covers all screenings. Membership is open to all!

Call Roger Macklin for details! 01442 876965.

News from St. John's - Full Frontal

Over the years, I have come to know a number of kind people in the area and so felt neither a stranger nor merely a visitor when, on 10th July, I joined the congregation at St. John's, Ashley Green, for a rather special Sunday morning church service.

The Holy Communion service was the platform - the vehicle - for the formal dedication of two gifts: one to the church and the other to the whole Ashley Green community.



A beautiful copper beech has been planted on the green in memory of Vivienne Withall - and we continued singing our hymn of praise as we left the church (and the safety of the organ accompaniment !) to gather outside to acknowledge the new focal point on the green.

Inside, St. John's was resplendent with the colourful vibrancy of the new altar frontal and accompanying suite of church vestments for use during the Trinity term. The suite has been given by Geoff Sheppard in memory of his late wife, my very dear sister, Hilary, who supported and enlivened the Church locally and in the wider diocesan arena and who was particularly keen to see women exercising a more influential role in Church affairs.

The design for the altar frontal was originated by a project group led by Rev. Hilary Wilson and including Barbara Young, Hilary Haworth and Geoff. The work was carried out by a textile designer, Juliet Hemingray and her company, specialising in ecclesiastical vestments.

Thanks to the efforts of Barbara Young, who took over the project leadership while Hilary Wilson was recuperating from an operation, the delivery logistics (trickier than anticipated) were successfully sorted out and everything arrived in the special transport, as planned and agreed, on Friday, 8th July.

At the outset, I had seen and really liked the proposed design for the new frontal but it did not do full justice to the finished article. The colourful, yet delicate, interweaving of flowers and leaves intentionally reflects the Chilterns summer countryside which Hilary loved so much and also echoes the colours of the stained glass windows at the east end of the church above the altar. The music embroidered below the frontal's central design is of the opening bars of the beautiful Welsh tune, Blaenwern, frequently used for the hymn "Love Divine all Loves Excelling" - one of Hilary's favourites.

It is certain that the new vestments will be a central part and focal point of the St John's services for many, many years to come.

Why not go and see for yourselves? *Vee Cockerell*



Cream Teas

The Church hosted a series of Cream Teas during the summer, and all were well attended - mainly because word got out about the quality of the offerings. A good community effort, and one that helped raised a goodly sum for the work at St. John's.

Barn Dance

The church also hosted another successful Barn dance in the Memorial Hall in June with our favourite band, "Cloudburst", providing the music and Keith the caller gently urging everyone into good dancing shape. Another successful (and fully subscribed) event to raise funds for the church.

Over 50's Lunch

The over 50's Lunches - a collaborative event between Church and Community Association - have been a great success, allowing people the luxury of having someone cook lunch for them - and at a very reasonable price.

Certainly for people living alone it is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the company of other villagers at the meal table!

October Concert

In October, the church hosted a concert of music to raise funds for the Hospice of St Francis. There was a great selection of music provided by three talented players on flute, harp, and viola, and Olga Palmer (one of the regular congregation) delighted everyone with some melodious Soprano solos.

Everyone agreed that this was another very successful event in our village (the food was good too!!), and we look forward to a visit next March from the Chess Valley Male voice choir who are coming to entertain in the church. Keep your eyes peeled for details of this concert to be held on March 24th 2012.



The Way We Were

Back in 2008 we ran a very interesting article about life in Ashley Green during the war, interviewing two ex pupils from way back - one a villager and one an evacuee - who came up to the old school to reminisce with our roving reporter!

You can see that article on-line by following this link:-
http://www.call.agca.org.uk/files/version08_dopdf.pdf

We have been contacted by another evacuee who found our website and got in touch, and has sent the following to take us back to that time. We asked the two pupils if they remembered this chap, but sadly not.

“I'm not surprised I am not remembered since I arrived during 1940 at the tender age of 4 - a very young lad. For the next maybe two or three years on and off we lived at “The Beeches” Two Dells Lane, travelling back to South East London on occasion to ensure our house was still there. Later during the war I was evacuated to Bridlington Yorkshire, and finished up at Herne Bay Kent. While I was at Ashley Green I did attend school there.

Here is a little piece I wrote mainly for my grandson who asked what I did in the war, and thought it was so long ago that I was talking about the Zulu wars!!

The year - 1940. Location - A village on the outskirts of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England.

Imagine if you will a dark country lane, a 4 year old wide eyed boy David clutching his mothers hand, imagination running wild as the moon emerged from behind the scurrying clouds, the silhouettes of the trees and bushes giving the appearance of witches and monsters, he was comforted in the fact that ahead of them was Grandad Thomas.

He and his mother had left their home in Catford, South East London due to the outbreak of war with Germany, to the safety of the country. His father, George, had rejoined the Royal Air Force and a Mr. & Mrs. Gurd had offered the couple a home for the duration. How we ever got to know them is still to this day a mystery to me, I can only assume they were acquaintances of my Grandad.

As we walked along, from the darkness ahead we heard what could only be described as “Scrape and tap!” and that was followed by “AnybodyThere?”

A long coated figure emerged, limping with a stick for support, to our relief it was Mr. Gurd looking for us.

He led us back to “The Beeches”, a bungalow, which I am told he built himself. There Mrs. Gurd welcomed us to the first of our three evacuation addresses.

I recall that bungalow, built on blocks, the peach tree by the front gate, the outside toilet which was at the side of the building reached by a short path about two feet wide, and if you strayed off the path you would fall into the deep dell. (wooded hollow) But for me the most exiting thing was to walk down the lane and finding windfall apples, a great prize.

When my Mother died, I found this address “The Beeches” Two Dells Lane. Ashley Green, among her possessions. I could only assume this was where we were evacuated.

Therefore on the 29th August 1995 my wife and I went in search of the bungalow. We found Two Dells Lane but not “The Beeches”

We made enquires as to where it may be and a gentleman we spoke to told us that we couldn't be much closer to it. He pointed to some trees and bushes at the side of the lane.

“Go through there” he said. This we did. With difficulty we pushed aside the overgrown bushes, and there it was, the bungalow on blocks. Sadly to say in ruins and uninhabitable, and we went inside. There was the sitting room where I used to tear my grandfathers tobacco into strips for his pipe, and going outside, there was the toilet and the dell just as I remembered all those years ago...

I am so glad we found it even though it was in such a sorry state, no doubt it has now been demolished now.”

Best wishes. David Siggins

Does anyone remember David from way back then??

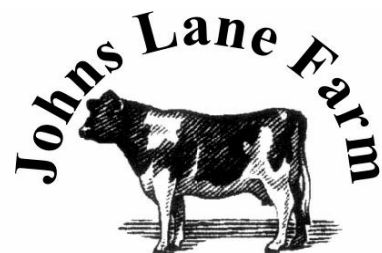
For information, the bungalow is still there - the first house in the row before the prep school, now named Deep Dell - which was rebuilt some time back in the past 12 years.

Johns Lane Farm

In the last issue we ran an article about Johns Lane Farm, and left a few copies at the farm for customers.

The article was a great success, as it clearly showed some of the trials and tribulations of our farming industry, and copies of “Call” were taken by customers, and commercial companies who deal with the farm, and taken to other farms around the UK. So successful in fact, that the farmer had to take more copies of the article to keep up with demand. If you didn't see that article, go to the website and read the last Newsletter - Issue 13.

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Hello Ashley Green!

For those of you who don't know me, I am Emma your new(ish) Lettings Officer. I was lucky enough to be appointed by the Association when I was made redundant from a temporary, part-time teaching post, and, after some gruelling training from Lawrence, stepped into his awesome shoes at the beginning of July.

I moved to the village last November with my husband and two boys. We were so pleased to find exactly the type of house we wanted and, although there has been a lot of talk but very little action this year, we are looking forward to some serious renovating in the New Year!

Since we have been here we have seen amazing extremes of weather, so we feel we have really experienced the village in all conditions. The snow fell just after we arrived and provided very scenic pictures for our change of address cards (and an opportunity for my husband to brag about his car's ability to get up the hill in all that snow) and I have discovered latent green fingers - I feel quite the Barbara Good trudging round the garden in my wellingtons, harvesting my crops!

Moving to the village and becoming Lettings Officer has been a revelation to me. My previous perceptions of Ashley Green amounted to, firstly, seeing it as one place down on a tortuous trip along the M4 (and invariably the place where the 'Are-we-nearly-there-yets?' began) - and, secondly, knowing that staff meetings from Ashlyns School would be made much more bearable with a bowl of the Golden Eagle's twisty fries!

But now I have been afforded a privileged insight into what a thriving and supportive community this is. There is plenty to do and get involved with, and we are blessed with wonderful facilities in the guise of the communal buildings we have at our disposal. I have met some really great people and been amazed at the number of them who give so much of their time and expertise voluntarily for the good of the village and its community.

Being the lettings Officer is more demanding than I expected it to be, but it is very interesting and has been a brilliant way of getting to know the village and many of its inhabitants.

I must admit, I did have reservations about leaving Berkhamsted, where I had lived for over thirty years of my life, but my five year old son summed up the whole experience of our new village life when he saw a removal van on Chesham Road about a month ago. As we drove past he said, with incredulity, 'but Mummy, why would anyone want to leave Ashley Green?'

Why, indeed...

Emma Allum - Lettings Officer

We welcome Emma and family to Ashley Green and thank her for stepping into the role of Lettings officer. Don't forget that if you need to hire one of the halls, contact her on 07979 634988 or Email to lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk.

Ashley Green Art Group

Exhibition

The Art group staged an exhibition of the members work in the Old School in June this year. Paintings and drawing were on show and many people came in to view (and some to buy. You can see a selection of the works on show, below. To see this in colour, visit the website and read "Community Call" there.



Church paintings by Brian Hall

On May 7th this year the Bishop of Oxford launched the Diocesan Pilgrim Project at a service in Banbury Parish Church attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The project is supported by a pilgrimage map of the diocese and drawings of fifteen churches in the diocese drawn by **Brian Hall**, a member of the **Ashley Green Art Group**.

The project is to encourage to people to carry out a pilgrimage to each of the fifteen churches, five in each of the counties comprising the diocese: Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Copies of the pilgrimage map have been distributed through every church in the diocese, and in each of the churches in the pilgrimage there are leaflets with a copy of the drawing on the front, and containing information about the church which might be of interest to visitors.

Brian was asked to do the drawings when he was sketching during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by the Bishop last October.

Originally the drawings were to be completed by September this year, but the Bishop asked if they could be done to present to the Archbishop on his visit to the diocese in May.

This meant Brian had to do the drawings, which are pen and ink and watercolour, from photos he had to take during the inclement weather during February and March.

The original drawings were displayed in Brian's church, St. Michael and All Angels in Amersham on the Hill, in mid October this year

The Ashley Green Art Group meets on a Monday evening in the Old School. If you are interested in coming along, call Margaret on 01442 862294

Ashley Green Youth Club.

Our Youth Club is alive and kicking, with 23 members at present (11 live in Ashley Green or close by, and the others come up from Chesham) - room for more of course - and our weekly attendance is usually between 15-18. They are a friendly bunch and always make a new face welcome.

Activities this term have included baking of scones cakes and biscuits, and we are going to make some peppermint creams and fridge cakes.

We have produced some amazing glass painting and there is going to be an evening of "Man" challenges where the kids will be set tasks to try and complete, and will be rewarded with small prizes. There is to be a "Movie and Chips" night, which the kids love as they get to stay out later than usual. There are usually 1 or 2 trips out each term, usually to Jarman Park in Hemel Hempstead, where the kids either do Bowling, Ice skating or Swimming, and Macdonalds always welcome us on our trip home when we stop for burgers and drinks.

We made a **HUGE** Guy (or 2) for the annual bonfire night on the Glebe this year, as well as running a stall selling hot dogs, tuck and drinks.

If you would like to find out more or would like to join us, note that we meet on Friday Evenings in the Wykes room.
Juniors 6pm -7.45pm and Seniors 8pm -10pm

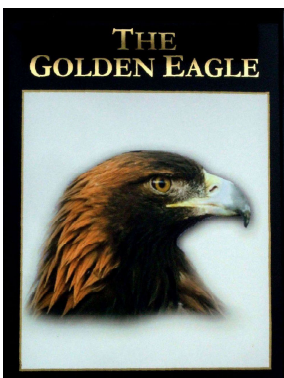
So please call me - **Lou** on **07725816163**
or Email **smiler-girl@hotmail.co.uk**

p.s We are also in need of any equipment which you no longer use - especially sports rackets, balls, nets, etc, and baking items and also a DVD player or anything we could use for arts and crafts. *Thanks again - Lou.*

Note that Council funding for youth projects has been withdrawn, or severely curtailed, which mean that youth projects - like our Youth Club - are under severe threat. The leaders are absolutely dedicated to ensure that our young people have some outlet for their energy, creativity and enthusiasm.

Why don't you contribute too?? Maybe you have things that the Youth Club needs - as above? Perhaps a donation to help the work? Maybe just a little of your time to help with the "backroom" jobs such as admin and planning and general assistance to ease the work of our youth leaders. Surely our young people need help??

The Golden Eagle



We must congratulate Ross and Helen who completed their first year of tenancy at our pub in August. To mark the occasion they held a "Thank you" evening with a glass of fizz and some food. There was a good turn out for that!!

There are regular events at the pub - Quiz and Poker nights, and Friday is "Fish Night" (well

attended too!), and Saturday "Grill Night".

In addition there are often special music and food events. Their website is undergoing an update just now, so keep your eyes open for the signs outside the pub about what's on, or check our own website in the interim.

Ashley Green Bat Walk



A large and enthusiastic group of villagers, of all ages, met at the Memorial Hall, an hour before sunset on Friday 23rd September for a Bat Walk led by Peter and Margaret Grimsey and Julie Hopton.

Peter, Margaret and Julie are members of the North Bucks Bat Group and Julie is also a Ranger with High Wycombe Council.

To start us off, Peter showed us some slides while Julie gave a very informative talk about the types of bats found in the United Kingdom.

We learned about their habitat, feeding habits and some background to the law relating to them - bats being a protected species.

Later, armed with 30 or so bat detectors (is that Bat-o-meters?) kindly provided, we ventured out onto Glebe to see what we could find. Initially we were disappointed and didn't pick up any sounds at all, but as we began to move towards the pond and passed underneath the large trees by the playground, our detectors came to life with the location calls and feeding buzzes of the Common Pipistrelle (also known as "45's" from the frequency they register on the detectors).

We had been told that an adult Pipistrelle weighs about 5gms and can live up to 15 years in the wild, and that each bat can consume 3,000 midges or mosquitoes each night. It was an amazing experience standing under the trees being able to listen to them and also see them flitting about above our heads.

A near relative the, Soprano Pipistrelle, has more affinity with water so Peter thinks that the village pond clearance which took place on the 16th October will help this species.

We retired back to the Memorial Hall for hot chocolate and biscuits made in the shape of bats made for us by Margaret Grimsey, these went down so well that Margaret very kindly provided us with her recipe. See it on the village website

Some people expressed an interest in buying a bat detector and Peter has suggested the following outlets;

www.nhbs.com; alanaecology.com; www.batbox.com/
www.wildlifeservices.co.uk/batdetectors;
<http://www.batdetector.co.uk/>.

For anybody interested in learning more about the North Bucks Bat Group, go to <http://northbucksbatgroup.org.uk>

Group Membership is just £5.

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The Royal Wedding



With no idea about the level of support for the Wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton, the Community Association decided to open the Memorial Hall on the day of the wedding and screen the event using their new High Definition projector and screen. With a bar and nibbles this was to be a real Community event for the villagers and friends.

On the day, a band of helpers set up the tables and chairs, opened the bar, set up the bowls of nibbles and waited nervously to see if this would take off.

Lo and behold, people began to filter in. Just a few to start with and then a steady stream - some clutching a flag and a few balloons, others with bottles of wine or champagne.

This was going to lift off after all!!

However, unbeknown to most people there was frenzied activity in the back room. "Cannot Find a Signal" was the gist of the message from the TV receiver to the projector, and nobody had any idea what was wrong. It had been tested the previous evening, but now seemed kaput.

999 was called in the shape of John from **RTS Video** of Chesham! On a white charger he turned up, worked out that the freeview box was not working, and went back to bring in a replacement. This was at ten minutes before coverage was due to start!!

Happy villagers in front, quaffing champagne (and other drinks) but absolute anguish in the technology dept. at back. John appeared, plugged in loaned box and BINGO there we were! (Thanks John - great work indeed!)

With just a few minutes to spare the Royal Wedding came on line. Hooray! Well done! And what a spectacle!

In the end about 70 people from Ashley Green and Whelpley Hill came along to enjoy the fun.



And what a surprise (was it such a surprise??) when all people in the hall rose - without exception - as the National Anthem was played.



Finally, several groups of people went over to the "Golden Eagle" to enjoy a barbecue in the garden to round off the event. Everyone agreed that it had been a great time. That is what we like to see in our village - Community spirit!!

GARDEN CLUB



Back in 1997 I was inveigled into resurrecting the Garden Club which had been dormant for some time. About twenty people joined up, and it ran for about a year. However when business travel commitments meant that I could no longer organise things, the club became dormant again.

In the last six months or so, several people have expressed an interest in a garden club, and maybe even with a horticultural show in the memorial hall in the summer!!

If you are also interested why not get in touch. If we get enough people we might be able to progress.

It will need someone to organise it though, as I won't be able to do that this time. However I am willing to help try to get it off the ground if there is sufficient support.

If you are interested, either send an Email to info@ashleygreen.org.uk or call me on 01442 874931.
David Harmer

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