

COMMUNITY CALL

Edition 2012/02

See "What's New" on our website.

Autumn 2012

www.ashleygreen.org.uk

JUBILEE ISSUE

In this issue we have gone for colour spread to show the various Diamond Jubilee celebrations that we had here in the village. See those in the Centre Spread, and at the same time a few more pictures of the Fair and other events.

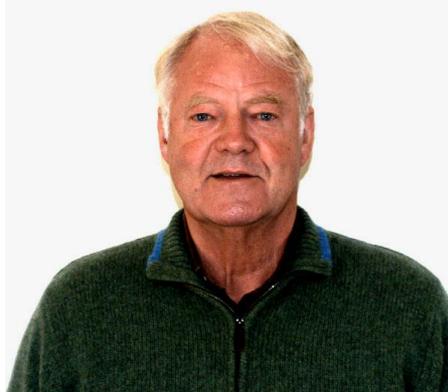
ALL CHANGE

Time for a change this year with both the Community Association and the Parish Council having new Chairmen.

David Hurling steps in to take over the chairmanship of the Ashley Green and District Community Association following Roger Watt's three year tenure, and **John Axon** takes over as chairman of the Parish Council stepping into the shoes of David Natali. We welcome both to their new roles, and wish them every success.



David Hurling



John Axon

We must not forget to thank both Roger and David for their service to our village community over the past years. **Well done!!**

ASHLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council currently comprises seven Councillors: four for the Ashley Green Ward and three for Whelpley Hill.

Earlier this summer there was a vacancy in Ashley Green Ward following the retirement of David Natali.

After advertising for nominations and getting no applications the Parish Council has decided to co-opt the former Chairman of the Community Association, Roger Watts, to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting of the Parish.

These are times when some people in our community may feel excluded or unsure how to influence the way facilities are provided.

The main concerns still seem to be the state of the roads in the Parish, evidence of speeding, and difficulties experienced by the old and the infirm.

The Parish Council aims to work more closely with the Community Association, the Church, The Golden Eagle and other bodies in Ashley Green to help alleviate some of these concerns.

John Axon (Chairman - Ashley Green Parish Council)

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What's On Summary

FILM CLUB - "Crash"

Friday November 2nd

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday November 17th

BONFIRE NIGHT

Monday November 5th

FILM CLUB - "The Artist"

Friday December 7th

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday December 9th

(Free to villagers)

NINE LESSON AND CAROLS

(in St John's)

Sunday December 16th

VALENTINES DANCE

Saturday February 9th 2013

THE "CONSORT" SINGS

Saturday March 9th 2013

A Cappella music in St John's.

See the notice boards & website for details.

Village Email News Bulletins

We have begun sending Email bulletins to Community Association members on a regular basis covering things like events coming up, new activities and also things like set of keys found, or lost pet - basically village interest items.

Such information may be useful to a wider audience than the CA members, so if you would like to be put on the mailing list - even though you may not be an Association member - simply contact the Editor with your Email address.

NOT A MEMBER YET?

Be part of the Village
Join the Community Association
Adults £5.00 per annum
Family rates too!

*Editor:- David Harmer - 01442 874931
Email - davedharmer@aol.com*

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

It is with great trepidation that I take up the reins of Chairman from Roger Watts! Having been at his side as Vice for 3 years, I know how much good work he has carried out to benefit Ashley Green.

Ever since moving into the village in 2006, Cath and I (and our 2 boys) felt part of a kind and supportive community. We were welcomed by neighbours (Elizabeth Foster & Lesley Popescu) on our day of arrival and swiftly became members of the Community Association.

After no end of social events we continue to be very proud of the village's community spirit - Ashley Green is a happy and friendly place to live! The Community Association exists to support and enrich village life, and I would encourage you to become members - it doesn't matter how little time you have to do your bit, anything helps. The Committee consists of a generous, likeable bunch of people and it would be great to gain some 'newbies' with fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

As a result of the various social events we hold, funds are raised for the maintenance of the Memorial Hall, the Old School and the other buildings, as well as some contribution to the Church.

It is our aim to work together with the Parish Council, St John's Church and the Golden Eagle to create ways to benefit our community.

Please look at the village website - www.ashleygreen.org.uk - for details of all that's happening. We have had some fabulous events this year (see the following write-ups!) and have more planned - Quiz Night, Fireworks on the Glebe and the Family Christmas Party.

I really hope to see you soon and thanks for your support!

David Hurling (Chairman)

PARISH FOOTPATHS

One of the blessings of living in this area is the wide availability of Public Footpaths and Bridleways. Some years ago John Toovey, then Chairman of the Ashley Green Parish Council, produced a delightful pocket map of the footpaths in the Parish. John went on to ensure that footpaths were regularly cleared of vegetation, usually by recruiting volunteer groups of more able-bodied parishioners for half/whole day projects.

Limited funds have been applied over the years under John, and more recently David Natali, to replace the majority of all stiles in the parish with a swing-gate variety better suited to all types of walkers.

In the near future The Parish Council hopes to mount a large-scale outdoor footpath map near the Village Hall, where car parking is available and so many people start their walks.

It is my intentions as newly elected Chair of the Parish Council, that we continue this work because we need a much safer environment for those walking or riding on our lanes.

Two Dells Lane is a busy and dangerous road, yet there is only a hard pavement from the crossroads to the village boundary, and only a rough path on the embankment nearest Orchard Leigh.

This path has received some attention from volunteers and local residents over the years, but we need a pedestrian way along the whole length of the Two Dells Lane.

The Parish Council will be seeking assistance from residents and volunteers in the coming months to make this road less risky for **ALL** users. I would be interested to hear from anyone keen to contribute to this scheme.

John Axon - (Chairman - Ashley Green Parish Council)
Contact via: www.ashleygreenparishcouncil.org.uk.

Ashley Green Youth Club

Sadly, the Youth Club in the village has been closed for some time. However Chesham Youth Services are keen to see it re-open and are prepared to provide the management support.

However, it does need a commitment from parents and children in the village to ensure this long established opportunity/activity continues, and we do need this here in the village.

If you or your child(ren) would be interested in helping out at the Youth Club, or attending as a member then please contact

Vic Green - Project Manager (Action For Youth)
Tel: 0845 600 9731

FITNESS WITH MUSIC

We seem to be very well served for classes which are aimed at people's fitness here in Ashley Green.

We have several sets of Zumba classes (Pounding rhythm and exercise), Salsa, and Danzante (maybe less pounding, but still good exercise) and also the new ballet class for adults. (see this issue)

We also have the new Pilates class (also see this issue) and the Yoga class.

Details of all these can be seen in the notice boards, or on our website at:

www.ashleygreen.org.uk.

Feel like getting fit?? Try a class

Ashley Green War Memorial

The Parish Council announces that restoration work on the war memorial close to St John's church began on Monday 8th October.

The company, "Inspire Conservation" are carrying out the work, and 50% of the funding towards the work has been secured from the War Memorials Trust.

Volunteer Needed

How would you feel about helping with publicity in Ashley Green? We need a Volunteer to help with the production of "Community Call" and also with the development and maintenance of the Village Website.

It would be useful if you had some experience of using MS word, (and maybe a bit of graphic design) but enthusiasm and a willingness to learn counts for far more.

It would suit someone with the patience to do some proof reading, come up with ideas about content and chase potential contributors and advertisers for copy.

Sounds so easy, doesn't it? It is!!

Contact the Editor (details Page 1) if interested.

THE VILLAGE FAIR

Once again our Annual Village Fair took off with a Bang!!

Yes, the British weather decided to provide a bit of water to dampen things with a downpour as we set up. But did that dampen spirits? Not at all! Willing, but damp, volunteers toiled in the rain to set up tents, stalls and canvas pergolas, and things set off with a swing



The rain eased later, teas were served and people began to smile in some sun.

Dogs performed, people raced, rats were duly “splatted” (or not), coconuts were shied, and the boys actually beat the girls in the tug-o war!! First time in years!!



Well done lads!!

Then we had the Egg Throwing competition!! You can see that it is not as easy as it might sound, and certainly a bit messier! Here, Jacqui shows her skills in omelette making as she drops an egg! Yuk!!

Despite the weather, it was another overall success for Ashley Green, with a good turnout, and lots of really great side-shows, and we made a profit too!



The vintage car show attracted a lot of attention, and we were fortunate that **Priests of Chesham** sponsored us with a prize of £150 towards a car service to the person who guessed correctly how many balloons were jammed into a car at the entrance to the vintage cars. Did you guess correctly?

So, despite the weather the fair was the usual success with over 800 people coming to our very traditional English Village Fair.

Well done to all who helped to make this so successful. The organising team, headed by Gavin Rennie, the volunteers and everyone who helped, and all the villagers who just simply came along to be part of this Annual event. Lets hope the sun will shine a bit more next year!!

Johns Lane Farm

In our previous issues we focussed upon the dairy farm in Johns Lane, run by Kevin and Brenda Fancourt. Since we went to print six months ago, they have had to sell their dairy herd and go out of business as a dairy farm as the price they got for their milk dropped to unsustainable levels. You will have, no doubt, seen all the issues about milk prices in the National Press and how the producers are squeezing our farmers out of business. Well, this is the outcome!!

Please continue your support for the farm, and pay a visit to buy eggs, jams, logs, juices, cakes and all manner of things which they sell their shop!

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE IN ASHLEY GREEN

It isn't often that we get a 50th Anniversary Jubilee for our Queen, but here it was in 2012 and we were going to make sure it was marked appropriately in Ashley Green.

The Parish Council purchased bunting for the occasion, and a team of volunteers shinned up ladders to make sure the Green (Yes, all of it) and the Church grounds were suitably decked out. then on the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of June things took off.

Firstly we had the **River Pageant** on June 3rd, and the Memorial hall was opened, chairs and tables set out, the bar opened (most important) and the new Projector was warmed up ready. All we needed now was an audience. Would anyone come?

Stupid question - people began to come in, in dribs and drabs, and then the trickle turned into a flow so much so that we had about 70 people all seated, and ready to go.

To say the pageant was a spectacle would be an understatement. It was a terrific. Thousands of boats, thousands of people, and the Queen and her party looking resplendent.

Lots to see (despite lots of rain at the Thames) but all in all a good day, and we all had a great time.



Next up was the **“Longest Lunch”** on June 4th.



Another rainy day, but did that stop us? Not at all. The sturdy volunteers laid out the table and chairs on the green, and then canvas pergolas appeared and covered the lot.

In the end we had about 150 people on the green with their wine and beer and food, (bar open of course) and all wearing a bit of red White and Blue.

Very Jolly (despite the weather) and another great community event.

When the rain eased there was time for a group photo to mark the occasion. Nearly everyone was on it, and the finished article is now in the Old School alongside the picture taken at the last Jubilee - ten years ago. Have a look some time!



After the lunch, delicious cream teas were served by the team from St. Johns to top up the lunch - for those who were not full - and then a hiatus and a bit of a rest before the evening's activities



At 8.00pm we had our own version of a Beacon, to join in the spirit of those lit all across the country. Not a beacon exactly but a bonfire on the Glebe which was well attended and the musicality of the villagers was shown with an enthusiastic and rousing rendering of Jerusalem followed by the National Anthem.

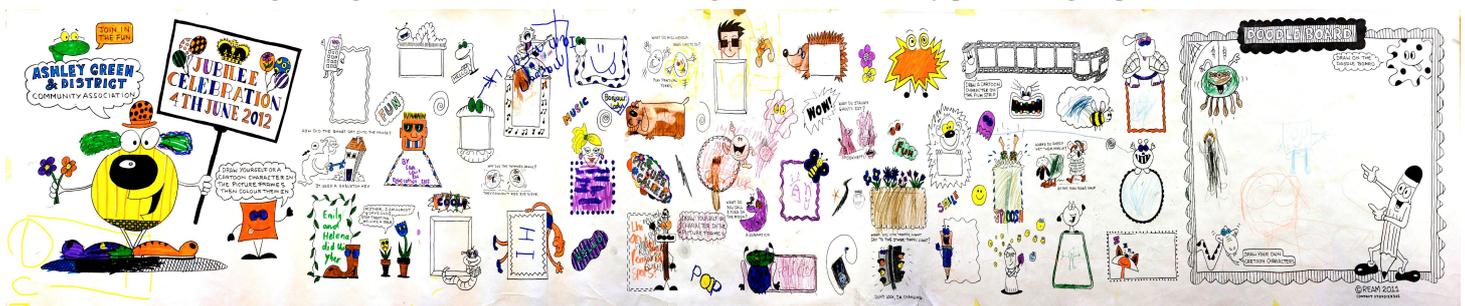


Then back inside to dance and party away to a great live band - "Masters of the Tuneiverse" provided by Mary Axon's son and friends.

What a great couple of days of celebration when we could salute Her Majesty (*God Bless you Ma'am*) and enjoy a great set of events as a village community.

We always put on a great show, here in Ashley Green.

We must not forget the Jubilee Celebration Banner which the young people of the village made during the various celebrations, with Jo organising it all. It was about 12 feet long and so we can only provide a glimpse of what it was like here.



Thanks Jo, and Well Done! to everyone who was involved in the making of it!!!!

RING OUT WILD BELLS



1983 is an odd year to think about in this Jubilee and Olympic year but it was a date that came very much to mind when we were asked to ring bells. 1983 was the year in which the Old School in Ashley Green was finally closed by the Government of the day, and with that the building fell into disuse. Fortunately, in relatively short order we were able to persuade Chiltern District Council that that the best use of the old school was as a building for community use and it is now one of the buildings looked after by the Ashley Green & District Community Association. Unfortunately, the ownership of the building was somewhat lost in the mist of time. We have reached, at least for the moment, a fairly comfortable arrangement where Chiltern District Council maintain the exterior of the building and Ashley Green & District Community Association look after the interior.

I suspect, that in the future, Chiltern District Council may prefer that we take on these responsibilities which I think the Community Association would be happy to do if the ownership issues should ever be clarified.

That aside, on two occasions this year we were asked to ring bells for the country. The first was as part of the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee. We were asked to be part of a mass bell ringing at three o'clock on Sunday 3rd June.

In anticipation and with some trepidation I got out the extending ladder to reach the bell which sits over the top of the entrance to the Old School. With rope in hand I proceeded to attach the necessary Boy Scout knot only to find that the entire housing of the bell through years of neglect had substantially rotted away. Frankly, how the bell and its enclosure had not tumbled to the ground during the recent heavy storms came as somewhat a surprise. It was clearly in no fit state to ring nor was it likely to be in time for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Immediate contact was made with Chiltern District Council not least because of the unsafe condition of the bell housing. I am delighted to say that David Stowe at Chiltern District Council immediately took matters in hand and in relatively short order had arranged for Misbourne Roofing Limited to come to the rescue. Whilst we missed the Queen's Jubilee celebration the second time we were asked to ring bells was in celebration of the commencement of the Olympic Games. Indeed, we were asked to ring door bells and any other bells at 8 o'clock on Friday 27th July, and a typically group of enthusiastic Ashley Green villagers duly rang out the bell for two minutes on the morning of the 27th.

That was the first time the Old School bell would have been heard in over 30 years. At the same time the Church of St. John's the Evangelist also joined in the peel, and together we celebrated the start of what was, after all, a quite outstanding Olympic season.

As the photo attests there was at least one old pupil in attendance. I leave it with you to guess which one that was.



Roger Watts

From Ashley Green to Hollywood

Ashley Green's very own Pilates teacher, Monique Gaymer-Jones, has sadly left us for pastures new in Hollywood.

She started in 2003 in the village hall, and within a short time she created a successful Pilates Studio in the Green Room at the Old School. We wish her well in her new life in the States.

She has passed the business on to Julia Turner of JET Personal Training (see below) so Pilates classes will still be available in the village. *Mary Axon* For details see below.

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Or visit our website www.jetpilates.co.uk





Don't Forget BONFIRE NIGHT

Monday November 5th
On the Glebe.
Adults £6.00 Children £3.00
Family £18.00. Pay at the gate.
Mulled wine, Hot Dogs, Sparklers

The Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) has become the CRF

Following yet more (more??) local government re-organisation the Neighbour Action Groups (NAG) have been disbanded.

However, our group has decided to carry on meeting, and to continue to share concerns in the Hilltop Parishes, and have re-named ourselves the Chesham Rural Forum (CRF)

Membership will remain the same in terms of a mix of lay people, Parish Councillors, County Councillors and the Police but we will not be limited by any remit other than that which we agree ourselves and which as a consequence will free us up to some extent. At our next meeting in November we will be putting together a new constitution and Kevin Flint, our neighbourhood police officer, will continue to post monthly Chesham Rural updates on the Thames Valley Police website www.thamesvalley.police.uk. With the police and crime commissioner elections on the 15th November no doubt we will be hearing a lot more from the force in the months to come.

Unfortunately we have lost two of our four PCSO's and they will not be replaced. This leaves us with P.C. Kevin Flint and PCSO's Rob O'Callaghan and Andy Piotrowski to cover our rural patch.

Kevin is keen to impress on villagers the need to pass on anything suspicious to the team, and as the evenings draw in there are likely to be more opportunities for burglars to try their luck and there has been a slight increase in the number of thefts from farm barns and out buildings.

There have been a few reportable incidents around Ashley Green and Whelpley Hill during July and August, including theft from a drive and domestic incidents. However, the crime rate in general across Chesham Rural areas remains below the national average.

The speed guns in the area have all been re-calibrated so the police will be out and about doing speed checks. If there is anywhere in the area that you think is a particular speeding hotspot then please let Kevin know and he will make his presence known. The lanes around us are very dangerous, especially for children, walkers and dog walkers especially where there are no footpaths, and it is the responsibility of us all to keep to the speed limit.

If you have anything that you would like John Axon and I to raise at the next Rural Forum please contact one of us.

Jacquie Rose jacquierose@lineone.net
John Axon (Chairman Ashley Green Parish Council)
john.axon@which.net

OUR NEW FLASHING SIGN - 30 MPH!!

Have you seen the new sign at the Chesham end of the village - the one that flashes to tell you that the speed limit is 30 mph, and that you may be (ARE??) exceeding it on your approach.



I'm sure you have!! This has been long coming, and the Parish Council's pressure has finally paid off.

We now have this sign, *and* the speed camera by the Church (which has been seen to be flashing in the past weeks!!) which together we hope will see a reduction in the speed of the vehicles roaring through Ashley Green.

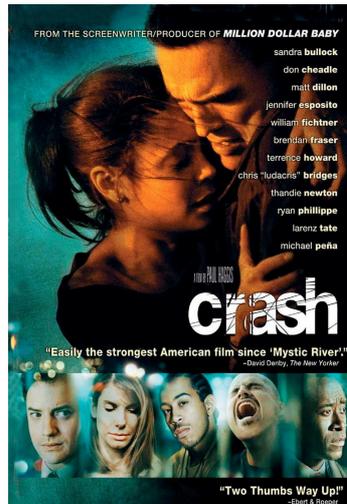
Just after this sign became operational, villagers noted that while that was great, the overhanging tree branches made it difficult to see, so we had to get some long loppers and trim them back.

(There is a totally unfounded rumour that similar signs in Herts have an additional camera to keep a check on persistent speeders. Who knows??)

Whatever - just take care, slow down, and set an example!!

THE ASHLEY GREEN FILM CLUB

The Ashley Green Film Club is back again, and we have the following three films to start us off, starting with:-



Friday November 2nd
"Crash(PG)"

Then

Friday December 7th
"The Artist (PG)"

Friday January 4th
"Leon (18)"

This season's subscriptions remain the same, with just £10 per adult and £5 for under 15s, and covers all screenings. To join, or to renew your subscription call:-

Roger Macklin for details! 01442 876965.

Membership is open to all!

The full programme will be published on the village website!!



We care for the Chilterns

The society is very active in the Chilterns, organising walks and cycle rides as well as organising volunteer working parties - like the one above. New members are always welcome.

For more details please contact the Society on:-

01494 771250 and www.chilternsociety.org.uk.

Adverts

Why not advertise your enterprise/activity here? Contact us with details. Email:- info@ashleygreen.org.uk. Tel:- 01442 874931

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in the Memorial Hall,
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Wednesdays 4.45 - 5.45
in the studio upstairs at the Fitness
Society (nr Tesco in Berkhamsted.)

Contact Clare Wille
Mob: 07881 620484.
Email: clarewille@yahoo.com

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FUN
RUN**

November 25th
For Details and
Entry Form
Call 01442 863549

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Excellent facilities in convenient location.
Suitable for:-
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The Lettings Officer : 07979 634988
Email - lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk

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

Ashley Green Community Association

QUIZ NIGHT

In the Memorial Hall
Saturday 17th November 7.30pm for 8.00pm start
For Details/tickets call 01442 871034 or 0771339492

ASHLEY GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**VALENTINES
DANCE**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9th 2013

Call:-
01442 871094 or 07765 868673
for details and tickets