

COMMUNITY CALL

Edition 2013/01

See "What's New" on our website. www.ashleygreen.org.uk

Spring 2013

The Masquerade Ball



The masquerade ball was great fun and one of the "posh" events on the calendar.

The hall was transformed into an amazingly imaginative world thanks to the artistic talents of Yvonne Flanagan who had spent countless hours perfecting the decorations; a fascinating collage of colours and materials.

Initially there were many cases of mistaken identity. How long could we hide behind our masks? Shrieks of laughter echoed as gradually we realised who we were talking to. After drinks we sat down to a delicious three course meal starting with smoked salmon and prawns, followed by chicken breast stuffed with apricots and plums. All that followed by Hungarian cheesecake and coulis cooked by our chef, Krizstian.

The waitresses and bar staff (mainly the daughters of guests) did a fabulous job - so very professional - and we are grateful to them for enabling the rest of us to sit down and enjoy our meal.

The Berkeley Gallery in Berkhamsted kindly donated two paintings which were auctioned and raised £270. The band, Sticky Jack's, managed to get everyone to their feet to dance the night away.

The team (above) of Ann Broschomb, Yvonne Flanagan, Jane Rimington and I worked hard to organise this event which proved to be a great success and raised a total of £1457, which is a great boost to the Association's funds.

Mary Axon



Contents

Page 1 - Masquerade Ball. What's On.
Page 2 - Hall extension
Page 3 - View from the chair. Our Fair
Page 4 - Film Club. Membership.
The Consort sings
Page 5 - Art Group. Valentines Dance
Page 6 - Farewell
Page 7 - Good Neighbours. WI.
Allotments
Page 8 - Adverts

What's On Summary

See the notice boards & website for details.

BARN DANCE (Run by St. John's)
Saturday May 18th

ASHLEY GREEN FAIR
Saturday June 1st

WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION
Sunday June 2nd

CREAM TEAS in ST. JOHN'S
Every Sunday 28th July - 1st September
COMMUNITY ASSOC. QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday October 12th

BONFIRE NIGHT
Tuesday November 5th

ST. JOHN'S AUTUMN FAIR
Saturday November 30th
ASSOCIATION XMAS PARTY
Sunday December 8th

Village Email News Bulletins

We have begun sending Email bulletins to Community Association members on a regular basis. These cover things like coming events, new activities etc. right down to little things like set of keys found, or lost pet - basically local 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 not member - simply contact us with your Email address.

If you are a member, have an Email address but do **not** yet receive bulletins, let us know.

If you don't have Email we are afraid we can't help, but keep looking at the notice boards for details.

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

IT'S ONLY A SIMPLE EXTENSION HONESTLY!!!

Ashley Green Memorial Village Hall has been our next door neighbour for nearly 13 years and we now feel even more intimately connected to it , after the past 12 months of activity aimed at implementing its extension and finding the money for that project.

The extension is envisaged as a simple means of improving the storage of furniture in the hall, but getting to where we are today has not always seemed a simple process; we did not anticipate all the issues uncovered in obtaining permission and money.

There have been many good evenings in the hall - and some enjoyable lunches too - but the moving of the chairs and tables into position - and then storing them away again, lifting them back to the stage, has always been a bugbear - the task that had to be done. Some organisations who use the hall actually employ a younger person to do the moving for them. So the idea was born of adding an extension to the rear of the hall so that the furniture could be stored there - making it easier to move the tables and chairs around and freeing the stage for its proper use. In the early part of 2012 three of us were asked to pursue the matter – myself, Jane Rimington and Mark Broschomb - and we can now report that **WE HAVE THE PERMISSIONS WE NEED, AND A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF THE MONEY IS BEING PROVIDED BY A GRANT!**

We started with looking at the site, developing an idea of the extension and its approximate cost and talking to Chiltern District Planning - a good local architect , Steve Blandamar drew up the plans and submitted them for planning approval - that was probably the easy bit and we received planning permission in early August. Chiltern Council are also the owners of the site and they had advised that because the hall is on common land, Government approval would be required; when I investigated that, it transpired we needed to obtain the national Planning Inspectorate agreement , using a section 38 form. I hope never to see such a form again. Even though I argued how simple our extension was, there was no way round the Section 38 form AND the advertising in the local press AND consultation with at least 6 other bodies who might object. Fulfilling these requirements and answering questions from the Inspectorate took an elapsed time of 5 months - and the February 2013 letter of approval is more than 2 pages long! But we got it !!

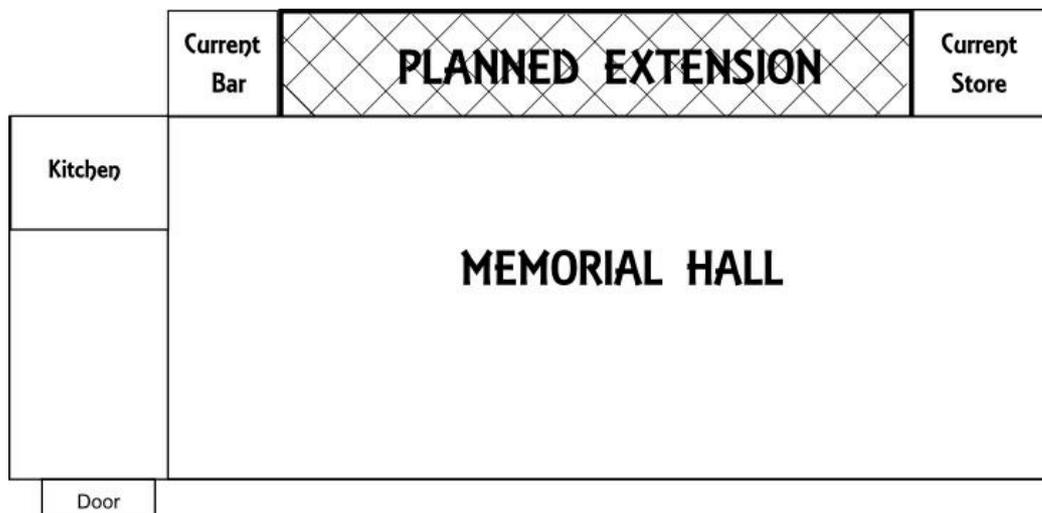
Simultaneously, we looked for some of the funds to be provided by a grant in order to reduce the demand on the Association's funds. Many organisations have stopped giving funds to projects and organisations like ours - or else give quite small amounts of about £2-3,000 after considerable approval and competitive processes. The only attractive source I found was Biffa Award , an organisation set up to use part of the Landfill Communities Fund to support a wide range of environmental and community projects; since 1997, more than £1 billion funding has been provided under this heading, £135 million by Biffa - AND one of Biffa's categories for small projects (up to £50k) was community buildings - so we fitted their priorities, in principle .

I will not bore you with the details of form filling and supplementary questions, but suffice to say we had a conditional offer of around £18,000 in mid February and that became unconditional today, the 19th April. We have also in the meantime had to register ourselves and our project with Entrust (2 more forms!), the regulator of these funds, which now allows us to qualify for other projects under this fund as an Environmental Body. It is important here to note that we have had excellent support from the committee, especially Jo , Dave and Lesley and Emma - and from several regular users who wrote very helpful letters of support; because it was crucial to show how wide a population uses our precious hall in one way and another. The bridge club wrote a brilliant letter - and we know their organiser, Gill Ford, will be delighted when the work is completed.

So now , since the Association does have the rest of the money, we can get on with it - Roger Watts and Mark are drawing up contract specs , we are looking for contractors to bid and have the approvals we need - and at least one person in the village has a very thick file of papers and files on his computer about this village hall extension.

How good it will be to see it built now!!! Honestly!! **John Poston**

Diagram below shows schematically where the extension will be built



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I can hardly believe that it is nearly a year since I took the post of Chairman of the AGCDA - how time has flown!

Firstly, I would like to give heartfelt thanks to all the Committee and villagers for their kindness and support. There have been many hugely enjoyable events and worthwhile activities in the last twelve months and this generosity of spirit meant that a great deal has been achieved!

A significant accomplishment has been obtaining a grant from Biffa for the extension on the Memorial Hall. We are all very grateful to John Poston for his hard work in arranging this funding. John describes the project on the previous page.

There have been a good few highlights on the events-front – such as the Masked Ball in October, the Quiz Night (won by the MAPPYS team), Fireworks on the Glebe (no rain!), the Christmas Party and the Valentines Dance. Additionally, the monthly Film Club has been excellent with some well-chosen titles to view.

Living in Ashley Green is satisfying - the links with St John's Church and the Parish Council continue to be strong and one of the results of this relationship is the formation of the Ashley Green Good Neighbour Group. Again, please see the relevant piece which details this exciting new idea.

Obviously, none of these things can happen without interest and enthusiasm from Ashley Green residents.

The AGM for AGDCA takes place on **Tues 11 June 2013** in the Old School and it would be fantastic to see some new faces attending the meeting. We would welcome new Committee members and, even if you don't wish to become a member, fresh ideas and suggestions would be very helpful and appreciated. I do hope to see you at the meeting.

Of course, before then we have the traditional annual **Village Fair on Saturday 1 June**. See below. Fingers crossed the weather is kind - bring your family and friends for a great day out!

In conclusion, I must extend my thanks to David Harmer, who, together with this newsletter and the website, provides the email Bulletins notifying us all of upcoming Ashley Green events and news. They are an invaluable reminder and means of communication. If you are not on the mailing list please contact David and he will ensure you are added.

David Hurling (Chairman - Ashley Green & District Community Association.)

DON'T FORGET THE FAIR!!!!

ASHLEY GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ASHLEY GREEN

Village Fair

ON THE GREEN



SATURDAY JUNE 1st
1.00PM to 5.00PM.

Come and Enjoy a Traditional Village Fair

ASHLEY GREEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ASHLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

You are invited to

THE REDEDICATION OF THE ASHLEY GREEN WAR MEMORIAL.

SUNDAY 2ND JUNE 2013

SERVICE ON THE GREEN - 11.00AM
AFTERNOON TEA ON THE GREEN - 12.00 - 2.30PM
(If bad weather service in St. John's and tea in Memorial Hall.)



More details Email ashleygreen.clerk@yahoo.co.uk
or Tel Beverley Pomells (Clerk) 01442 872464

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The Ashley Green and District Community Association exists to foster a community spirit by staging events throughout the year for villagers and others, and at the same time raising funds to maintain and continually improve the facilities - The Memorial Hall (Village Hall), the Old School and other buildings on that site - so that these venues are constantly available for the benefit of the village and villagers.

By joining the Association you become an integral part of your village and can meet your neighbours and friends at one or other of the social events.

With your skills, talents and ideas we can more easily find creative ways to provide entertainment and enjoyment for individuals and families alike.

Fees are very reasonable!

Per adult - £5.00 per annum

Per family (2 adults and up to 3 children under 14) - £15.00 per annum.

Your contribution helps toward the upkeep of the village facilities, and you also get the massive benefit of FREE entry to the Village Christmas Party. Above all you become an integral part of village life - Priceless!

If you are not a member yet, come on! Come out and enter into the spirit of where you have chosen to live.

Contact the Membership Secretary on:
01442 866549

The CONSORT sang

The Consort, a local chamber choir of eight voices came to Ashley Green Twice in the past six months. Their first visit was to the Golden Eagle when they held a "Carol and Christmas music" evening just before Christmas.

With plenty of advance publicity, the pub was packed with people who came to listen to Christmas songs and Carols, and sing along to traditional favourites. "While Shepherds Watched their flocks by Night" sung to the original tune which was that of "Ilkley Moor b'ah t'at" went down a treat with everyone.

It was a really festive evening and a collection raised over £60 for St John's Ambulance - the pub's nominated charity.

On their second visit, the Consort staged a concert in St. John's to raise funds for the church.

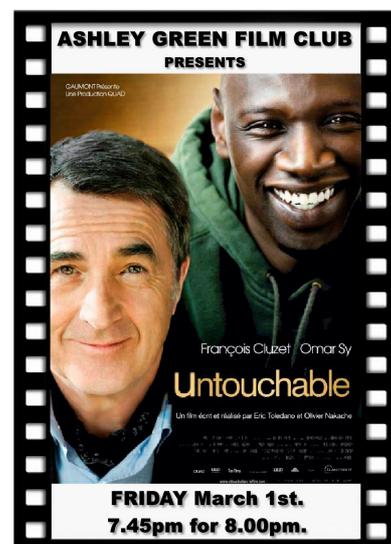
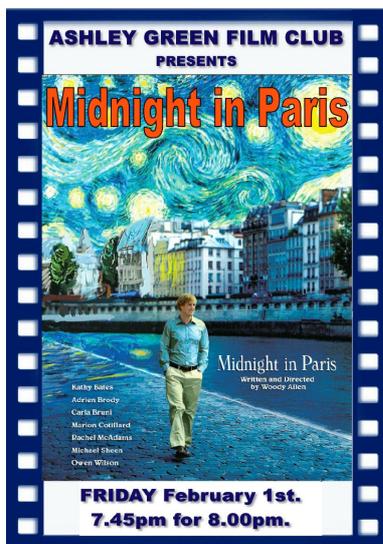
The programme covered all styles of music from sacred motets to the Beatles and with the emphasis on the lighter side of their repertoire. £520 was raised for the evening for the church - a good effort.

See and hear them at www.consort.org.uk

ASHLEY GREEN FILM CLUB

This year's programme has been a real corker, with some unexpected gems, and some "feelgood" films as well, and some which filled both categories.

Notable were "Midnight in Paris" and "Untouchable".

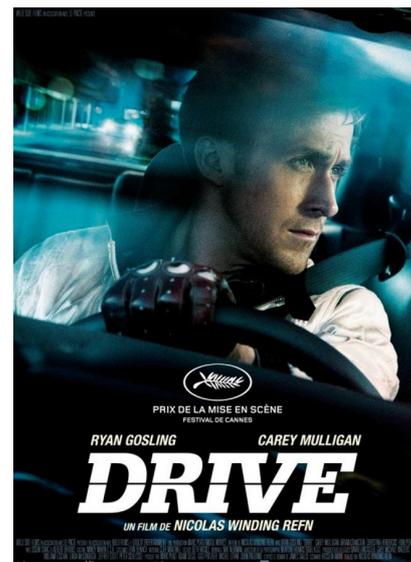


The first with a French theme, and the second a real French film. To get some atmosphere for these two, the organisers laid on baguettes, cheese, meats, tartlets and snacks - some thoughtfully and gratefully provided by members themselves - and, of course, French wines. That really set the scene to very full houses (for Ashley Green) with up to 30 people attending, and the films were enjoyed by all.

Then some terrific music with the "Blues Brothers", with one of the biggest sets of car smashes outside of the Bourne Trilogy and Bruce Willis films. Then the "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" with a star cast.



Last film of the Season will be "DRIVE" on Friday June 7th.



If you haven't been along, do so next season. For £10 you get about 8 films or so, so it is not expensive, and the new projection equipment makes it a real treat to see these films. What more could you want than watching some great films with a drink in hand, with your friends and neighbours, and just a short walk home. Try it!

ASHLEY GREEN ART GROUP



As on previous occasions, the Ashley Green Art Group were fortunate in having good weather over the weekend of 13/14th October, when they held their Exhibition in the Old School.

But sadly, in spite of this, and in spite of widespread advertising around the Village, the viewers did not come pouring in.

The Exhibition displayed some very nice paintings in various mediums, and Elizabeth Foster's wonderful glassware was beautifully set out - all showing off a surprising amount of local talent.



Marion John, in charge of refreshments, had set the Bennett Room out to look like an attractive café.

Visitors were asked to name their favourite painting and that was 'Low Petergate, York' by Gerry Hunting.

We aim to hold an exhibition every 18 months, and hope that next time you will all come along to admire our efforts. *Margaret Bowler.*

Do support the Art Group. They have some talented artists and their work is worth seeing.

ERRATUM

In the previous issue of Community Call, there was a great spread about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations here in Ashley Green, with pictures (in colour too) and text.

Sadly we referred to the Jubilee as marking the Queen's 50th year when, of course, it marked the 60th year!

VALENTINE'S SUPPER & DANCE

Another great social evening which attracted a Full House - all tickets sold and every table taken.

Decorations covered the walls and tables - all by the hard work of Yvonne Flanagan (see Masquerade Ball)



The supper started with Chicken Liver pate, followed by tender lamb shanks, and then chocolate torte - all provided by our chef, Krizstian.

After supper we danced the night away to Frank's disco **DJ2party**, which gave us a heady mix of "Gangnam" style music and (finally) some older rock favourites.

A great success which added £1400.00 to our funds. Well done everyone!



FAREWELL

In this issue, sadly, we have to say farewell to people who in their various ways have enriched the life of this village.

JAMES HUNTER



11/08/1912

18/01/2013

Jim Hunter came to Haresfoot farm in the early 1960s. He came down from Scotland by train. Yes, he put all his animals on a train, and travelled to Berkhamsted station from whence they came up to the farm which is up by the A41 roundabout. He was a very active farmer with a herd of about 120 cattle and a flock of sheep on land that stretched almost up to the Glebe. His wife, Mary, was very active in the village WI, and Jim was (apparently) quite the life and soul of the party at their events.

He celebrated his 100th birthday last year, and passed away in January. A full life!

MICHAEL ASTON STONHILL



08/01/1929

26/12/2013

Michael Stonhill was a proper Ashley Green villager, living in Snowhill with Margaret, the love of his life, and the garden which he tended with so much care.

Last year, Michael announced that he had been coming to the Golden Eagle for **75 years!!** How was that? Well, he said he was the pot boy at 8 and became a regular figure in the Golden Eagle after that, occupying the seat just inside the door where he would greet villager and stranger alike.

His fund of stories was legend, and his knowledge of garden lore extensive. When the (short lived) garden group was started about 15 years ago, we quickly found that his knowledge far outstripped that of the speakers, but he never let on!

He was well known for his love of a small whiskey, and his love of performing, and so, when a Music Hall was staged in 1991 to raise funds to restore the wellhead, Michael donned his DJ and presided over proceeding as MC. (Was that tea in his glass?) What a figure. What a success, and what a Man!

KEITH FOSTER

Keith Foster was the loving husband of Elizabeth, and father to Deborah.



31/05/1938

02/03/2013

The family lived up Hog Lane where they established a family home - together with paddocks for equestrians in the fields behind (*which created lots of lovely manure for allotment and garden lovers*) - and a place for convivial garden parties, and a home for their two "rescued" chickens aptly named "**Lunch**" and "**Dinner**" by their friends.

Keith was widely travelled and an influential manager for BP where he saw to the installation of BP's Information Technology networks.

After his diagnosis for cancer, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the appropriate care services were in place for other sufferers in the UK, and were truly effective, and that IT information websites really did provide the help lines and support services so desperately needed to give people the reassurances they needed in times of great worry.

His ability to teach cancer sufferers how to communicate after radical throat surgery made him highly skilled and highly sought after by the medical profession.

A character of great energy and good humour.

VERA GOWERS



Vera Gowers was heavily involved with a number organisations and charities, too many to list here, but covering those from Wycombe Health Authority, League of Hospital Friends, and as governor of local schools for many years. Notable among her efforts was her drive to raise £250,000 in two years towards the Hydrotherapy pool appeal at Amersham Hospital.

She gave lots of time to help in the community at large, and was awarded the MBE in 1994 for services to the people of Buckinghamshire. She was a staunch member of St. John's and oversaw the restoration of the altar frontal in the church.

Even with all these activities she had time for family and friends. A much loved lady, of many talents and drive.

These people will be greatly missed by all who knew them!

ASHLEY GREEN GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP

Ashley Green Good Neighbours Group is a new partnership of the Parish Council, Community Association and Church, working together with the support of Helen and Ross at the Golden Eagle Pub, to strengthen our community and make Ashley Green an even better place to live. This group is working together to provide things we really want and to support those that may be in some kind of need that is not being met.

In today's uncertain world many of us need a little help from time to time, so we are working with The Chiltern Food Bank and other agencies, groups and individuals to support those who have a variety of needs.

We already have the Emergency Care service, and the Monthly Lunch club, but these will all be covered by the one group which will make things more co-ordinated, and with additional features, as below.

THE MONTHLY LUNCH CLUB

We fill the Golden Eagle Pub full to bursting on the third Tuesday of each month. Cost is £6 for a two course meal plus coffee or tea. Call Cindy on 01442 873343 or Joan on 01442 878795 if you would like to join us.

THE MEMORIAL HALL LUNCHES

Twice a year there is a lunch for 60 people in the Memorial Hall. Why not come and join those who would like somebody else to cook for them for a change. The next one is in October.

EMERGENCY CARE SERVICE

A transport service for such things important appointments in hard to reach places like hospitals, or Doctors, or emergency shopping, has been in place for some time. This service is currently under review to see how it can be improved. Watch out for more information in the future.

NEW FOR 2013 'CUPPA AND A CHAT!'

How would you like a change from your four walls once in a while? How does a weekly **DROP IN** with tea and coffee sound to you? Perhaps stay for home made soup and a roll for lunch if you fancy? You can come on your own or perhaps bring a friend. Don't worry if you don't have transport, we can organise to pick you up. (call Beverley on 01442 872464).

This is planned to start on **Thursday May 2nd** at the Old School, and will open from **10.30 - 2.00pm** each week. We have funding so we can keep costs low, we've got a place to meet, now all we need is you!

FINALLY

Of course we can't do anything without your help, and although we have some great volunteers, we need more, especially for the "drop in". We would love to hear from you if you are able to help on the day with drinks, or making some soup occasionally, or by giving somebody a lift. Could you be a contact person for those who may need transport?

In order to do more, we need people who are willing to give a little time to help. Don't worry, we know that people have busy lives and we are not looking for a weekly commitment, but if you have some time spare and feel you would be willing to help out with any of the above community schemes, we would be delighted to hear from you.

(Call Yvonne 01442 871094, 07539 796322).

ASHLEY GREEN WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The WI in Ashley Green is thriving with a current membership of 39.

We have had a good year with mostly excellent speakers, monthly lunches at various pubs, visits to Ascot Race Course, St. Albans butterfly farm and to hear Michael Portillo speaking at Elgiva Hall.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the group with a "posh" afternoon tea at Pendley manor last April, and a relaxed tea in our garden later in the summer.

At the end of last year we had a lovely Christmas lunch at the Bobsleigh, and altogether had a good time.

We welcome new members, and would love to see more villagers at our meetings, so why not come along and give us a whirl. You will find a warm welcome if you do! *Pat Harmer*

ALLOTMENTS

Did you know we had allotments in Ashley Green - sited behind the Memorial Hall and managed by the Parish Council.

Because there was a waiting list, some plots have been split in half - following an initiative from the National Allotment Association in the UK - so that people who work might more easily be able to work them properly.

There are now **TWO** half plots available!

If you would like to be considered, or would like more information, please contact the:-

Clerk to Council at
www.ashleygreenparishcouncil.org.uk



Adverts

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



Lamaloo
Craft Parties

www.lamaloo.co.uk

**Craft parties for
all ages and
all occasions**

Tel: 07711 339492
jo@lamaloo.co.uk

B A C Berkhamsted Arts & Crafts

..... helping you scratch that creative itch since 1977

We stock a vast range of art & craft materials

We run a wide variety of art & craft classes



For details please visit our website: www.bacshop.co.uk
ring us on 01442 866632
or call in and see us at
29-31 Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire, HP4 2AB

Jo & Dee
Cleaning Service

WEEKLY CLEANING

SPRING CLEANING

ONE OFF CLEANING

IRONING

WINDOW CLEANING

5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

For your friendly cleaning service
call - 01442 460494
Jo - 07508 146043
Dee - 07840 335516

Halls to Hire
in Ashley Green

Excellent facilities in convenient location.

Suitable for:-
Receptions, Meetings, Parties,
Classes and Events of all kinds.

The Memorial Hall
also known as the Village Hall:-

Well heated accommodation for up to 150 people.
Brand new, comfortable, chairs.
New Kitchen facilities to commercial standard.
All glassware, crockery & cutlery.
Stage and Bar Area.
Modern Audio Visual equipment available.
Ample car parking.

The Old School:-

Two rooms which can be joined into one.
Will take up to 80 people.
Brand New Kitchen. Bar Area.
Parking and Secure grounds.

Another small building is also available.

The Lettings Officer : 07979 634988
Email - lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk

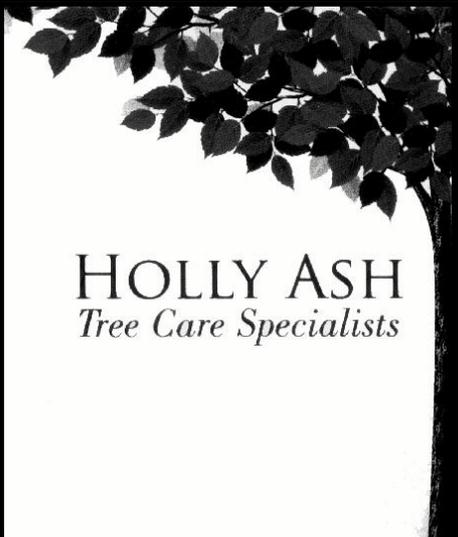
Ashley Green & District Community Association. Registered Charity No. 292478

Have you tried our local farm shop??

Johns Lane Farm
FARM SHOP



Find us along Johns Lane (off Hog Lane) Ashley Green
Tel:01442 864366 Mob: 07774 493863



HOLLY ASH
Tree Care Specialists

TEL: 01494 785057
07759 475051
07736 047835

SOLE TO SOLE

Reflexology in your own home for conditions including IBS, Stress and PMT - and many more.

Call Debbie Roberts to book an appointment:-

Tel: 01296 668 892
Mob: 07970 799 896



Plant Hire

J.R.H.
Building Materials

Building Materials

New & Second Hand

Phone or 07788-768313 or 01442-865673
for Price and Update