

COMMUNITY CALL

Edition No. 18

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

Autumn 2013

ASHLEY GREEN - THE PLACE TO BE



Ashley Green seems to be one of the places that people want to live! How can we say that? Well, the Community Association membership secretary has already posted over a dozen "Welcome Packs" through the doors of newcomers to the village in the past twelve months, and many of them have already signed up to become members (the annual fee is very, very, reasonable). Many have also requested to be put on the Bulletin circulation list and have come to some events and activities.

We warmly welcome **ALL** our new villagers, and hope that they will all find our community something they want to be part of.

(If you have NOT already received your "Welcome Pack", or joined the Association, do contact the membership secretary (01442 866549) or visit the website and use the contact page.)

There will be many more new faces to come over the coming months since we can see about 10 "For Sale" or "For Rent" as well as "Sold" notices on display.

One potential buyer contacted us and talked at length to some council members, to get information first hand. They must have heard the right things because the "Sold" notice went up outside the property in question within a few days.

There has also been a lot of extension and refurbishment work in the village too, and some New Builds. "Devonia" - along the Chesham Road - is an example. The new house is now ready and up for sale. *(See the Before and After pictures below.)*



All this points to a place that does not stand still, and - despite the busy road - is eagerly sought after by people wanting to live here.

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What's On Summary

See the notice boards & website for details.

ST. JOHN'S AUTUMN FAIR

Saturday November 30th

FILM CLUB

"Men who stare at Goats (15)"

Friday December 6th

ASSOCIATION XMAS PARTY

Sunday December 8th

CAROLS IN THE GOLDEN EAGLE

(with "The Consort")

Tuesday December 17th

CAROL SERVICE IN ST. JOHN'S

Sunday December 22nd

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Wednesday December 25th

2014

BURNS NIGHT

Saturday February 1st

CHAIRMAN'S DISCO

Saturday April 12th

ANNUAL VILLAGE FAIR

Saturday June 7th

Village Email News Bulletins

News Bulletins were sent to Community Association members by Email on a regular basis at the beginning of 2013, covering coming events, activities etc. right down to things like road closures, set of keys found, or lost pet - all 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 simply contact us with your Email address.

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

Editor:- David Harmer - 01442 874931

Email - davedharmer@aol.com

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

The Annual Village Fair was another runaway success this year with a great turn out from the village and people from way beyond. The weather smiled on us and it was sunny all day!

A dedicated team of helpers, under the guidance of Gavin Rennie our stalwart organiser, descended on the Green to set up and when all the dust settled, we were open for business as usual in the afternoon.

The Dog Display was a big draw - it always is - as was the Classic Car section.



We had a Coconut shy, Bale tossing, Professional golf tuition, a well attended Pimms stall, teas and refreshments in the Hall (thanks to the ladies of the WI) and numerous stalls all displaying their wares.

For the children there were Rides and Sideshows and - in fact - something for everyone.



The tug of war showed a reversal this year, with the boys finally beating the girls, and in the older sections we saw girls and ladies straining away determined to beat the men!!

The "Golden Eagle" opened up the field behind the pub for overflow parking, and this was well used. It also had the effect of attracting many people in for meals - a great boost to the pub indeed.

In the evening the helpers and friends set up tables on the Green to have supper and drinks and to relax, but a chill wind eventually drove everyone inside the hall where a good time was had by all.



Our thanks to Gavin and his team, and everyone who contributed to make this another successful Annual Fair!!

2014 here we come.

CONGRATULATIONS

On June 29th Susie Jenner married Chris Melvin in St. John's - our church here in Ashley Green.

You will all know Susie, a villager who has been the smiling face behind the bar in the Golden Eagle for some time now and Chris a long term resident.

The church was packed - standing room only - as the whole village wanted to be there to wish them well. After the service, the wedding party went over for the reception to Chris' parents house in Two Dells Lane, where there was a very large marquee and later there was music and dancing into the night and on into the early hours.



Congratulations Susie and Chris.
We wish you both every happiness.

QUIZ NIGHT

The second Quiz Night to be run by the new team attracted just over 50 people in Nine teams.

This time no meal was offered (just nibbles) and that meant an earlier finish and the ticket price was reduced as well.

A good time was had by all and the winning team - **MAPPYS** led by Yvonne Flanagan - romped home comfortably for the second time.

(This is them!)



Here we see Lawrence in good form at the Quiz. He and Jo are leaving the village, so this was his last event as co-organiser

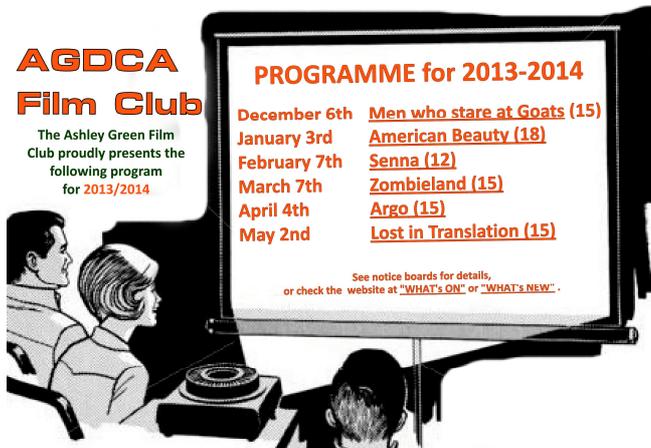
They have both done so much for the village over the years and they will be sorely missed.

We wish them every success in the future.

ASHLEY GREEN FILM CLUB

By the time you read this issue of "Community Call" we will have had two films from the 2013-2014 season, "Quartet" - one of the recent "feelgood" films - and "The Impossible", about the Asian Tsunami.

But don't worry, there are still a feast of films organised for you for the coming season. Have a look at what we have got!



If you haven't been along before, do so now. For £10 you get about 8 films or so in a season, so it is not expensive, and the new projection equipment makes it a real treat.

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!

The films are shown in the Memorial Hall using the new high definition projector and a 3m screen. Screening will start at 8.00pm on Friday nights (Doors open at 7.45pm).

This season's subscription is £10 per adult and £5 for under 15's and covers all screenings. Under 12's are free with adult membership but must be supervised. Guests £3.00 per showing. Membership is open to all.

For all enquiries call Roger Macklin on 01442 - 876965

Next Film



WELCOME TO COMMUNITY CALL

This is Issue No. 18.

You can see this in **Colour** on the website. Next issue is due in May 2014, so if you have something you would like to say, maybe a letter or comment, please send it in to the Editor.

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 of the social events. Annual fees are very reasonable.

Per adult - £5.00

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

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 and enter into the spirit of where you have chosen to live.

New Villagers are especially welcome and we really hope they will bring new talents and fresh ideas and help us find more creative ways to provide entertainment for everyone.

While on that point, now that Jo Kidd is moving away, we are looking for a "Minute Taker" for the Association meetings. Can you help us please?

Contact the Membership Secretary on: 01442 866549

Also - if you have some experience of Graphic design, Desktop publishing or even Website Design, we need an assistant to help with the Newsletter, or the website or with the production of Posters, Tickets and Flyers for Village Events. Could this be you??

Contact the Editor on: 01442 874931

THE EAGLE MUSIC FESTIVAL

This summer, as announced earlier in the year, the Golden Eagle staged a Music "Fest" in the field behind the pub.

Care was taken to ensure that villagers concerns about security, noise levels, litter, cars, marshalling and possible incursion by Travellers were taken into account.

Music started about midday and stopped promptly just after 10.00pm, and a good time was had by all who attended throughout the day - over 200 visitors at any one time. Sadly we have no photos for you. The wonders of technology put the **delete** button too close for comfort we hear.

Quite a few lessons were learned about staging such an event, and there is likely to be another event next year, so watch out for details. All at the Eagle thank everyone for their support this time and will give plenty of notice of the next event.

WAR MEMORIAL RE-DEDICATION

In late 2012 work of restoration of our War Memorial was carried out by "Inspire Conservation" with a grant from the War Memorials Trust and its rededication took place on June 4th this year.



The Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Rev'd Alan Wilson, officiated, together with our vicar, Hilary Wilson - who gave the welcome - and the service was attended by representatives of the British Legion, and other service organisations. Cadets from Halton also attended.

The service was held on the grass outside the church and the Bishop clearly reminded us of the men who went to war and gave their lives in doing so, and that their memory should be kept alive in every community.

Readings were given by Cllr Rod Tucker (Parish Council) and County Cllr Mark Shaw; (Chesham Town Mayor) and wreaths were laid on behalf of each branch of the services by British Legion reps. and by Cadets. Prayers were led by Jeremy Wyman

The names of the men commemorated on the memorial were then read out by David Hurling, the Chairman of the Community Association and as the "Last Post" sounded by a lone trumpeter - Alexander Whiscombe - the service flags were dipped in salute as a moments silence was held.



*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them!"*

OUR BONFIRE NIGHT

Another **great** success. Here are the words sent in by one visitor.

"The whole event was lovely. The bonfire was massive and very warming - the mulled wine was the best I have tasted at any event in the UK (and not too orangey - reference for the ladies who were serving) and the firework display was absolutely first class (and longer than expected too!) A brilliant evening and a credit to all involved."

Well, what more can we say? Well done everyone.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



The following services will be held in St John's this Christmas

Annual Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm

Nativity Service

Tuesday December 24th at 4.30pm

Midnight Communion Service

Tuesday December 24th at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Family Service

Wednesday 26th December at 10.30am

GRAVEYARD FENCING

The final section of fencing around the graveyard along Hog Lane was completed this year with the support of the Wood Yard of G & M B Manning, who supplied the timber, "Wood Image" who carried out the work, and the Parish of Great Chesham who provided funding.

There is now a gate along Hog Lane - not for public access but for contractors and clearance work. Please use the Front gate for entry as usual.



GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP

The "Cuppa and Chat" initiative begun in May by the Good Neighbour Group has been most successful and every Thursday there has been the opportunity for villagers to meet in the Old School to "Chat", have some tea and coffee and maybe play cards or games and then partake of a home-made snack lunch - delicious soup and a roll, or a sandwich - for a donation.

These meetings offer somewhere for people to have a change from their four walls once in a while and get out and about. **Everyone** is welcome and all ages have been represented, there being about a dozen people each time. For those without transport that, too, can be organised.

Times have changed and we now open at **12.00am.** and close at **2.30pm** each week, with the emphasis upon this being more of a **Lunch, Cuppa and Chat** event. Cuppa and Chat Christmas Lunch is Thursday 12th Dec.

More helpers are needed to make this a success!

For details, or if you can help, please call Beverley on **01442 872464**

THE “SIMPLE” EXTENSION IS FINISHED NOW IT CAN BE USED .

In the last issue of “Community Call” the reasons for wanting an extension to the Memorial Hall were clearly stated. I said it was envisaged as a **Simple** means of improving the storage of furniture in the hall.

That would enable us to clear it from the stage and reduce the work of moving chairs and tables from the stage to the hall - and back again at the end of an evening’s entertainment. That has always been a bugbear, so much so that some organisations actually employ a younger person to do the moving for them, and on other occasions people often left the work to a small band of helpers because it was a bit of a chore.

So the idea was born of adding an extension to the rear of the hall not only so that the furniture could be stored there but also freeing the stage for its proper use.

I also described the process of getting approval, often complicated and time consuming, and obtaining of funding from Biffa Award to reduce the demands on the Association’s funds. The really tedious part was obtaining permission of the Planning Inspectorate because the hall is on common land, but once all of that had been completed everything moved pretty quickly.

From the moment that Mark Broschomb was appointed to undertake the contract, it has gone very smoothly and we owe him and his team a great vote of thanks .And as the photos show , it is all completed and the change of look of the stage and the use of the extension as storage is underway.



Following work done by Roger Watts and Mark Broschomb on the specification, we invited 4 contractors to bid for the extension and received three responses , but only one of those was anywhere near what we looked for in terms of response and price . When Roger and I could not agree a price with that contractor, we asked Mark to give us a price (he had excluded himself from the earlier process) and his was only 10% above the budget we had worked to , so with the agreement of the officers of the Association, we appointed his firm to do the work.

It only took just over 2 months to complete and during the project, Mark suggested 2 extra pieces of work - adding a rear door , which might enable the area at the rear to be used in future - and providing electrical connection to both the Glebe and the Green for use in future events there . And he did that within the price he had quoted. Many thanks, Mark .

We can be very pleased with the finished work, well finished and decorated . The stage now looks ready for immediate use and the storage area takes all the furniture and should take some of the other items which are currently stored in the current storeroom -- enabling that to be used for people preparing for events or to store other items .Many users have already commented positively and so another improvement to the Memorial Hall has been delivered , with over half the costs coming from the Biffa grant .

We will hold a small ceremony with Biffa and the local press to tell the story and promote the extension - and most importantly to promote the total facilities of the hall and the work of the Association. So, I hope it will be a good news story all round - we have an improvement to the hall, a wider understanding of how funds can be obtained and a chance to get some publicity. Not bad for a “**Simple**” extension.

John Poston

Our grateful thanks must be given to John, Roger and Mark for the work they put in to make this a real success story. Also to Biffa for their assistance with funding. If you have not seen the work, have a look next time you are at the hall - it is terrific!

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

OCTOBER 2013

For those of you who do not know, The Ashley Green Parish Council consists of 4 Ashley Green wards and 3 Whelpley Hill ones and it meets every two months - usually in the Old School.

Observers at Parish Council meetings are always welcome and if you want an issue raised you can do so by contacting the Parish Clerk, Beverley Pommels, on 01442 872464. Dates of meetings can be seen in the Parish Council notice board by the Old School or on the Parish Council website at:-

www.ashleygreenparishcouncil.org.uk

Ann Broschcomb resigned in July after several years valued assistance to the Council and her Ashley Green seat was taken in September by Jeff Trickett, who will be standing for re-election at the Annual Parish Meeting next May.

The full list of Councillors can also be seen on our website.

TRAVELLERS SITES

Perhaps the most high profile issue to emerge for some time has been the drafting of the Chiltern District Council (CDC) Delivery Development Plan (DDPD) and, in particular, a consultation from early September to 14 October about site options within Chiltern's area for accommodating Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

This is the District Council's forward plan. In it many aspects of local authority obligations are covered since it must demonstrate that it also has proposals for dealing with travellers should accommodation be required in its area.

At Ashley Green parish level there was one site suggested (known as Site 6) on the extreme west of the Parish on the road to Bovingdon and another (known as Area 1), to the south of the parish, and backing on to Warrender Road, Chesham. That is currently owned by a local farmer but he has assured everyone that it is not for sale.

Chiltern District Council (CDC) requested that residents potentially affected by any of the sites identified should learn about them from the Council's website and write in with their comments.

A leaflet drop explaining the issues further was arranged by the Parish Council to houses in the Orchard Leigh, Two Dells Lane, Chesham Road, Jasons Hill and Whelpley Hill areas - the areas closest to the site on the road to Bovingdon.

I am told a good level of response was received by the close date of 14 October. I wrote to CDC on behalf of the Parish generally.

Early indications suggest that these two potential sites closest to our parish do not score well on the assessment criteria. That is not to say that they won't be ear-marked for future travellers sites or that others near the parish won't appear at a later date. But, clearly, considerable objections have been raised and now recorded by CDC. In the meantime if parishioners have concerns about any unusual or unsuitable use of Green Belt land they need to remain vigilant and channel their concerns through the Parish Clerk (above).

I am grateful to David Harmer and the Community Association for providing a focus for such planning issues and developments through the weekly emailed **Bulletins** and the twice yearly newsletter - **Community Call**.

FINALLY

Finally, I can report that the Parish has been careful with its monies in recent years and has some reserves.

There are two projects require finishing which would bring noticeable benefit to our community.

One is the renewal of the heating at St John's Church, Ashley Green and the other is refurbishment of toilet facilities at the Coronation Hall, Whelpley Hill, after the successful modernisation of the rest of the building last year. I am planning to put proposals to the Parish Council for grants of about £2000 to each project to the November meeting.

Our facilities at the Old School and the Memorial Hall have been considerably improved in recent years under the direction of the Community Association who are responsible for their upkeep, as have toilet and catering facilities at St John's. The latest development has been the completion of the Memorial Hall extension.

Let's ensure that we continue to have desirable facilities throughout the Parish.

John Axon. Chairman 21/10/2013

THE GOOD LIFE

ASHLEY GREEN ALLOTMENTS

If you want to grow your own vegetables, fruit or flowers, some plots are now available to villagers on the allotment site in Ashley Green. Do think carefully before you conjure up a romantic image of "THE GOOD LIFE"

You do need to put in quite a bit of work on a regular basis to keep the plot neat and tidy and worked properly.

Recognising that this might be a bit difficult for people with a full time job, the Parish Council will offer half plots so that people have a little less work to start with, and will be more easily able to cope.



If this is for you - Please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council for details. *Call 01442 872464*

Ashley Green Community Association

FAMILY PARTY

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

6.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Mulled wine

Refreshments

Raffle

Christmas Carols

Association Members - FREE

Children - FREE

Non Members - £2.00

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

After a beautiful summer - the best for years - we are now entering a season which will provide plenty of village activity and a great chance to meet and socialise with fellow villagers.

By the time you read this issue we will have had our fabulous Fireworks on the Glebe and coming up we have the Association's Christmas Party, Burns Night and a new idea - the 'Chairman's Disco' in April. Don't forget the Carols in the Eagle as well as the annual Carol service in the church.

All of these events are due to a core team of dedicated folk within the Ashley Green District & Community Association and it is to this team that I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

(Details of all events are on Page 1 and on the website!)

I must especially add my thanks to the team who contributed to the completion of the Memorial Hall extension - great work by John Poston in working through all the paperwork involved and Roger Watts and Mark Broschomb who dealt with the planning and then to Mark whose company dealt with the construction. Details of that can be seen on Page 5.

Sadly, we've recently said 'Goodbye' to Jo & Lawrence Kidd, who are moving out of the village. Their passion and commitment with their work on managing lettings - a terrific source of income - and as Secretary/Minute taker over the past 7 years have been spectacular and this absence results in a large hole in the Committee.

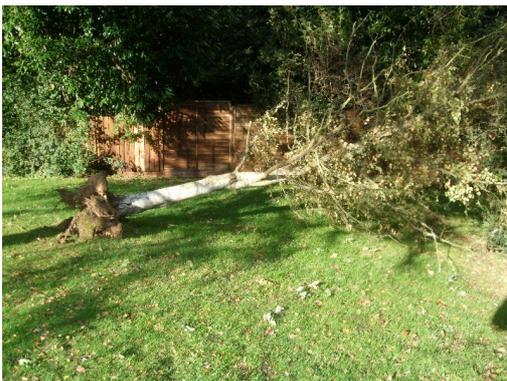
On this note, I would strongly welcome some new faces! We must keep the Ashley Green spirit alive and, having achieved so much, it is important to keep up the momentum. With so many new villagers I hope they will soon join in and come along.

AGDCA meetings are held every second Tuesday evening of each month in the Old School - do come and become a valuable part of village life!

David Hurling - Chairman – AGDCA

THE "GREAT STORM"

Luckily, the storm on Monday 28th October largely missed us and did little damage as compared to other places in the South and South East. One tree came down on the allotment plot - no allotmenters were hit - and another on the Green by the Glebe. There was a much bigger tree along Johns Lane which closed the road right into Tuesday 29th, but apart from that and lots of debris on the roads, we seemed to have got off lightly. Ashley Green lives to fight another day.



The tree on the Green!

CHESHAM RURAL FORUM



Around a year ago Thames Valley police decided to disband the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG) in favour of other methods of communication. However our local group, Chesham Rural, believing that it was important to meet with Thames Valley police in order to put forward the concerns of our villages and to hear reports of crime statistics in our area, continued to meet using the new name of Chesham Rural Forum.

The next quarterly meeting had been arranged for September 2013, however we were informed just the day before the meeting was due to take place that no one from Thames Valley Police would be attending as we no longer had named neighbourhood police officers or PCSOs assigned to us.

Understandably this sent a ripple of alarm through the villages as it appeared that our specific concerns would be given lower priority and resources than those of Chesham town itself. John Axon, Chairman of the Parish Council and other councillors from affected villages contacted Thames Valley with their concerns and received assurance from Richard Vine (Inspector, Neighbourhood Policing; Chiltern and South Bucks LPA) that there continues to be a commitment to the rural communities and that the points of contact remain the same, with the exception of Kevin Flint who is on secondment elsewhere.

Whether this commitment stretches to the level of communication that we enjoyed previously under NAG and then Chesham Rural Forum remains to be seen, however in villages such as ours, where it is not possible to set up 'have your say' drop in centres or where police officers or PCSOs are not as visible as they are walking down Chesham High Street, local meetings with representatives of the village communities and communication and engagement with the general public should remain as much as a priority as Anthony Stansfield, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley has stated that they would be in his Police and Crime Plan.

We all agree that resources are stretched at the present time, however a two hour meeting four times a year with councillors and ordinary members of several village communities to discuss local issues and provide two way feedback and intelligence must be a better use of resources and provide Thames Valley with more local knowledge & good publicity and than they could gain with driving a police car through our villages once in a while looking at us from the 'outside in' rather than being inside with us.

Jacquie Rose



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Ashley Green Community Association

Burns Night

Saturday February 1st
Ashley Green Village Hall
6.30pm for 7.00pm meal

Ticket £27.50 per person
Includes 3 course meal & whiskey shot

For tickets and information Phone 01442 876229

Dress - Smart with a hint of tartan. Kids welcome



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at
The Golden Eagle

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