

COMMUNITY CALL

Edition No. 19

www.ashleygreen.org.uk

Spring 2014

THE VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

In the last issue of Community Call we published a piece about Ashley Green being the place that people seem to want to come to live - "*The place to be*" - and how we have been seeing many "SOLD" signs as new people come into the village seemingly supporting that view.

All newcomers receive a "Welcome Pack" with information about what goes on, who we are and how our Community Association works and we now have about 340 individual members of the Community Association so in theory should have no trouble getting people to join in and help to share the load of making things happen.

Sadly this is not the case, and we have to rely on a small number of dedicated people working on your behalf. That number is shrinking as people either leave the village or feel they have done their share, so we need more "hands to the pumps" to keep things moving forward.

The committee decided that we needed to find out what you - the villagers - really feel about being in Ashley Green, how much you join in with the events and activities and, if not, why not, and asking what you would additionally like to see.

Accordingly we designed a questionnaire to see how you felt and what lessons we might learn from your responses. This was delivered to every household in April, and was available on the internet too. We are still collecting returns as we go to press. The results will be published in our regular Bulletins later in the summer, and on the website.

Those without Internet access can call us and we will deliver a bulletin to your door so you can see the conclusions.

THE GOOD LIFE THE ASHLEY GREEN ALLOTMENTS

If you want to grow your own vegetables, fruit or flowers, the Parish Council have **THREE** half plots now available to villagers.

Do think before you conjure up a romantic image of "**THE GOOD LIFE**" though. You do need to put in some 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 are offering the half plots so that people have a little less work to do and will be more easily able to cope.

Why not team up with a friend, perhaps, and get to work now?

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



WELCOME TO COMMUNITY CALL

Don't forget - you can see this issue on the website. Next issue is due in November 2014.

If you have something you would like us to include please send to:-

The Editor - davedharmer@aol.com.

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What's On Summary

See the notice boards & website for details

ANNUAL VILLAGE FAIR

Saturday June 7th

WORLD CUP FOOTBALL - TBA

Screened in the Village Hall June/July

FAMILY SPORTS DAY

Sunday September 7th

EVENING OF MAGIC AND MIND READING

Saturday October 11th

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday December 7th

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

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

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, join up!

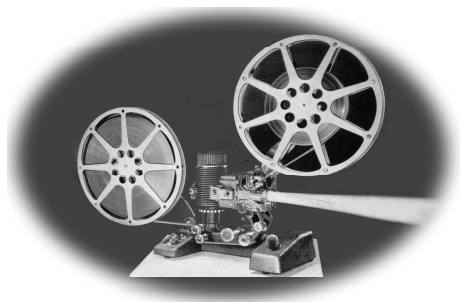
New villagers. If you have not received your "**Welcome Pack**", please contact us.

Also - We are still looking for a "**Minute Taker**" for the Association meetings and a **Treasurer**.

Could that be you? If so, please contact:-

The Membership Secretary on:
01442 866549

AGDCA Film Club



By the time you read this issue of "Community Call" we will have completed the 2013-2014 season ending up with "Argo" and "Lost in Translation".

The club has been running since 2010 when the high definition projector and the 3 metre screen were acquired for the purpose of screening films and other events such as the Royal Wedding, the Queen's Jubilee and the World cup. It has been a great success and we have had some really great films. Something like 36 films have been screened since the club was formed.

We owe Roger and Clare Macklin a great vote of thanks for the work they have put in over the years.

Sadly it looks as if the club will close after the last film of this season unless we can find someone else to take over its running. Should you feel you are up for the job, please contact a member of the committee, or the editor.

We also need to tempt a slightly larger audience to come and enjoy a good night out if we do continue. If you let us know if you would join the club should it continue, it would help us plan how to proceed!

"CUPPA AND CHAT"

The "Cuppa and Chat" initiative begun in May 2013 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, often delicious soup and a roll.

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.

We remind everyone that the 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.

The Monthly Pensioners lunch in the Eagle is still going strong with a very good attendance. Why not come along?

More helpers are always needed to make this a success!

For details, or if you can help, please call Beverley on:-

01442 872464

OUR VERY OWN "FREECYCLE"

You may be aware of an internet service called "FreeCycle" where people can advertise things they want to give away (*Yes - give!*) to a good home.

Well, it looks as if we now have our own version here in the village since we have been able to advertise several items in the Bulletins that many of you get by Email.

We have already found homes for quite a few things:-

- A Table Top football table
- An Executive office chair
- Four compost bins
- A Black and White Laser printer.

We also advertised for a shed for the allotments and another of our "vigilant villagers" spotted one being dismantled and we managed to acquire that -thanks - and an exercise bike for a bit of physio. We had a response for that within a few hours, so it all seems to work well!

Should you have something you no longer need and would like to offer it to someone in the village, or you are looking for something which someone else might be discarding, just notify us via this address davedharmer@aol.com and we will publish in the next Bulletin.

Don't bin it - Recycle it!!



While on the subject of recycling, how many of you have heard of **WORKAID** - the charity based in Chesham?

This charity takes in every sort of tool - Gardening tools, Engineering and Plumbing tools, Sewing machines, Knitting machines, in fact everything - which, after cleaning and refurbishment, is sent out to projects (mainly in Africa) where boys and girls, men and women, are trained in their use under supervision and can then use them to earn a living.

This year they will send out 80 tonnes of tools!

Those which cannot be sent, or which are surplus, including petrol or electric mowers, materials, gardening tools and various Knick Knacks are sold in the shop along Cameron Road in Chesham to raise additional funds.

If you have tools which you don't want to scrap, or cannot find a taker for via our own Bulletins, then take them to Workaid, or call for collection. Go to www.workaid.org

VILLAGE BULLETINS

Village Bulletins are sent by Email on a regular basis covering coming events, activities etc. right down to things like road closures, set of keys found, or lost pet - all local village interest items - and now our own form of "FreeCycle" (see above).

These bulletins are available to **ALL VILLAGERS** and if you would like to get them but are not on the list, simply contact us with your Email address. *Contact:-* davedharmer@aol.com.

Sorry - can't help if you don't have Email, but see notice boards for details of events/activities.

A TASTE OF BURNS

February 1st saw the return to Ashley Green of a **Burns Night** celebration.

The evening started with some quality bagpipe playing in front of a roaring log fire, (or at least the image of one projected on to the stage curtain) in a beautifully decorated Village Hall.

The formal part of the night commenced with the Haggis piped into and around the hall before coming to rest on a table in the middle. The guests gathered round as a fearsome kilted Scot raged with the Ode to the Haggis. He castigated a young man for his pitiful use of tinned foods and honoured a fellow Scot who had obviously been brought up solely on Haggis and Neaps!

After the Haggis had been well and truly eviscerated the guests returned to their seats to receive the Selkirk Grace from yet another man wearing a skirt. This followed by a superb scotch broth.

A delicious stew with Neaps and Tatties was served along with heaps o' Haggis and of course the inevitable whisky.

After all the revellers had had their fill of food and wine, ably helped in that regard by a drove of bonnie lassies working as waitresses, the serious business of the Toasts, was embarked upon.

First to centre stage was Jamie Chapman, who spoke eloquently of the assets and deficits of the focus of our evening, namely Scotland's most famous bard, Robbie Burns.

We were then charmed and entertained by the fabulous Watt's father and daughter duo and their rendition of the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply.



After that it was time to push back the tables and let the raucous festivities begin to the robust and effervescent tunes of the caller and the "Chameleons".

We danced late into the night ably abetted by a fine selection of beers and wines and of course the ever-excellent cache of rare and excellent whiskies. To give pause for breath, the raffle of wines, spirits, flowers, candles and other glorious items gave excitement to all and prizes to the lucky few.



Nights like this don't happen often but when they do, they must not be missed. Their memories will last for many a year.

Of course they do not happen of their own accord and our thanks must go to all of our entertainers for the evening, Jeremy Macklin, Mick McCormick, Jamie Chapman, Roger and Jessica Watts, to David Harmer, Jacquie Rose and Hilary Mills for their help with publicity, tickets and fine wines and to Shelagh Watts, Cath Walmsley, Claire and Roger Macklin for their efforts to bring us the food, the decorations and the organization to make it such a wonderful event.

To round it all off, the evening managed to raise £1,112 for the community association to help it improve the lives of all who live in the village.

Next year we understand that it will be the turn of those with Irish ancestry to stage a glorious event – we look forward to the Feast of St Patrick!

STRICTLYLEARN DANCING

During a visit to The Hospice of St Francis, early in 2013, we were approached by Ros Taylor, who told us about “**Strictly Learn Dancing**”, one of their many annual fundraising events. She suggested that we would be perfect for it, and as the sun was out and we felt full of the joys of Spring, we agreed. We thought little more about it until later that year when the Fundraising pack arrived and it suddenly became a reality. Learn to dance the Argentine Tango and the Samba with only 6 group lessons, over 6 weeks which will then be performed in front of an audience of 500 people! Neither of us having danced before, the prospect was to say the least daunting.

In total, 20 couples entered the competition and our Wednesday evenings were soon taken up in a local school hall, learning the two 90 second dance routines, choreographed by our wonderful dance teachers, Brian and Shirley Cusworth. Each week, we would tackle part of each dance and then be left to practice on our own before the next lesson. We approached Emma to use the Memorial Hall for daytime practices which proved invaluable as both dances involved covering a lot of floor space.....more than we had available at home!

We had to provide our own outfits and of course purchase some proper dance shoes. No one had any idea on what each of the couples costumes were until the night and any variations to the dance routines had been kept strictly secret until the actual performance.



Here we see **Katrina and Alan** in full flow!

Thanks to Alan - resident in Two Dells Lane - for sending in this Article and showing us that we have real talent in the village - and what a good cause too.

Many a sleepless night led up to Saturday 15th March when we arrived at the venue, already spray-tanned in preparation for our hair and make-up final touches. The most nerve wracking moment was standing in the wings, waiting to be called on stage especially as we were Couple No.1. Just as nerve wracking was the two and a quarter hour wait until our next dance, especially with a strict alcohol ban.

The audience were very enthusiastic and even though we were shaking with nerves, the excitement of the event carried us through. There was a screen to enable us to watch the performances whilst waiting and doing some last minute practice.. The night ended with our Samba and a dance off between the top 3 couples - alas we were not one of them.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and we managed to raise over £2,500 between us including our ticket sales, thanks to great support on the night from family and friends. Over £30,000 was raised in total for this charity event.

We would highly recommend this to any other keen dancers out there (no previous experience necessary, in fact the less you know, the better!) - they are already signing couples up for Strictly Learn Dancing 2015. If you would be interesting in finding out more or registering to take part, please contact Fran Martin, Senior Community Fundraiser at The Hospice of St Francis, 01442 869555. Email fran.martin@stfrancis.org.uk.



Anyone fancy a twirl for next year's event?

From the PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council holds its Annual Parish Meeting and AGM on 14th May from 7.30. All residents are welcome to attend this event, which reflects the most local level of governance of our village affairs. Please also note that the following meeting of the Parish Council, scheduled for 16th July is postponed to 8.00 p.m. on 23rd July.

Many of you will have seen my earlier note that accompanied the Community Association's open questionnaire to residents of Ashley Green. I described the work the Parish Council hopes to commission in extending footpaths and in keeping up the pressure on getting the worst of road damage in the Parish repaired by the County. Our aim generally this year is to ensure that the presentation of our two villages is enhanced, using our limited funds to create a stronger sense of identity for residents and a visible pride in our surroundings.

John Axon, Chairman -Ashley Green Parish Council



FEED THE BEES



Bees are under threat and their numbers are declining due to disease, monoculture, and pesticides. In this village many of us are privileged to have gardens. In Britain gardens have now become the main source of food for bees. When planning your garden this year please don't forget to plant bee-friendly flowers.

Honey bees, and bumblebees eat only nectar and pollen, so are entirely dependent on an adequate supply of the right kinds of flowers throughout the year. As wild flowers have become scarce in the countryside, gardens can provide a stronghold for bees if the right plants are grown.

Many flowers now grown such as pansies, begonias, busy lizzies, and petunias have been highly cultivated and produce little or no pollen and nectar, or keep it hidden in double blooms where bees cannot reach it.

Please grow traditional cottage garden flowers, flowering shrubs, and native wild flowers where the pollen is easily accessible. They are often easier to grow and are resistant to pests, reducing the need for lethal sprays.

Bees are essential for the pollination of our food crops. Without them the consequences would be very grave for all of us. Remember the old saying which is still true today "If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, man would only have four years to live".

Mary Axon

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

THE ASHLEY GREEN WI

The Ashley Green WI goes from strength to strength and membership now stands at almost 40. It is now larger even than the Chesham WI and attracts members from the surrounding towns and villages.

The monthly meetings have featured the widest range of interesting speakers, and will do so right through the year, and it is this varied programme and the easy going and friendly atmosphere which is the foundation for success.

Sadly, there are now only six villagers in the membership and it would be really great to see more villagers come along. New village residents will find a very warm welcome indeed.

We meet in the Old School every second Thursday in the month at 7.45pm. We also meet for a monthly pub lunch and have an event or two in the summer.

This is the programme for the rest of 2014:

June 13th	Rock 'n Roll and a rocking chair
July 10th	Bowen Technique
August 14th	Hand spinning and Natural Dyeing
September 11th	Pantomime
October 9th	Life at the BBC
November 13th	Annual Meeting and Christmas Fair
December 11 th	Party.

For more details contact Pat Harmer On 01442 874931



THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCO

On April 12th we had the Memorial Hall throbbing to the sounds of the "Chairman's Disco" run by our chairman, David Hurling and his wife Cath, who did a great job as the driving force behind the organisation.

Music was provided by A.N. Discos. who had strict instructions to play requests from the villagers.



The older ones went for the classic music of the Rolling Stones, Lynyrd Skynyrd and others for things like Abba, but as the evening wore on the more insistent "head banging" styles made the hall shake.

Crepes were provided by "Crêpe Heaven" who braved the chilly night with their cooking tent outside the hall, but who did a roaring business nonetheless.

Inside the hall we had a well stocked bar and the festivities went on well into the night. This was another successful event run by the Association and well supported too - a real social occasion enjoyed by all.

Well done Dave & Cath. A great evening. If you missed it, make sure you come to the next event. Keep your eyes peeled!

Disco Folk



"CUPPA AND CHAT"

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ASHLEY GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ASHLEY GREEN

Village Fair

ON THE GREEN

SATURDAY JUNE 7th

1.00PM to 5.00PM.

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Another small building is also available.

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

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

EPIC CYCLE TO HELP ONE OF ASHLEY'S GREEN'S YOUNGEST RESIDENTS

It was reported in the last edition of Community Call that the village was clearly a place that people wanted to be, judging by the number of "SOLD" signs going up in the area. One of the couples responsible for such a sign were Matthew and Nicky Buckle, who moved to 4 Rushmoor (on the edge of the village just before the petrol station) in December, a week before Christmas. They brought with them their then 10 month old son, Toby, who must have been one of the village's youngest residents. Managing to get a gas main and a new kitchen installed in time to celebrate Christmas in their new home, the Buckles thought they had successfully defeated the odds. Little did they know that their arrival would coincide with the most difficult time in their lives. Just 4 days after moving into their new home (and just 3 days before Christmas), little Toby awoke with a very swollen eye. When his parents noticed the same thing the next morning, and mindful of closures over Christmas, they took him to a GP to be checked over. The GP suggested it was likely to be an allergic reaction, and in a new home in a new "country" environment, this initially made perfect sense. Over Christmas itself the swelling seemed to go down. However, it soon returned prompting another trip to the GP, who again suggested it was allergies and to keep going with a course of anti-histamines. Several days later and with no improvement, Toby's parents returned and this time the GP suggested it may be an infection and to try a course of anti-biotics. When this also had no effect, Toby's parents insisted on a referral to a paediatrician.

It was lucky for them that they did, because in early January 2014, Toby was diagnosed with the devastating and incurable kidney disease, Nephrotic Syndrome. This prompted a three-day stay at Stoke Mandeville and under the supervision of a specialist team from Great Ormond Street, Toby was started on a course of heavy dose steroids. Nephrotic Syndrome is a rare condition, most often affecting children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old and the prognosis is extremely variable but often very good for most children in that age range. For children as young as Toby however (just 10 months at diagnosis) the prognosis is often much worse, and so it was an incredibly difficult time for the young family.

The disease is characterised by a leakage of protein into the urine, which has a number of consequences for the body, including a leakage of fluid into the body's tissues resulting in the build-up of swelling - which is why Toby often awoke looking like he had been in a fight during the night, his eyes swollen like those of a defeated boxer. The disease is rarer in adults but not unheard of, and some residents may remember the enormous All Black rugby player Jonah Lomu, who is a sufferer and who was forced to end his rugby career and undergo a kidney transplant to fight the disease.

Despite the devastating news, the Buckles tried to stay positive and by the end of January, Matthew had discovered the Nephrotic Syndrome Trust (NeST), a charity funding research being done by a small team in Bristol to identify causes, develop treatments and ultimately look for a cure to Nephrotic Syndrome. As luck would have it, Matthew along with his best man and three other friends were already signed up for their next sporting challenge, the Rat Race Road Trip. This is an organised 440 mile cycle ride from London to Edinburgh, in just 2 days, at an incredible 220 miles per day.

Determined to turn a terrible situation around into a positive, Matthew set about organising his participation in the ride to raise money for NeST and set a fundraising target of £4,400, or £10 for every mile of the trip. At the time of going to press, Matthew and his team have raised over £3,200, with 4 months still to go before the ride in August 2014.

In even better news, Toby has finally completed (in mid-April) his initial course of steroids and Great Ormond Street is happy that he is currently in remission from the disease. There is a strong likelihood of a relapse, but the fact that Toby responded to the steroids means that there is hope that, like older children who get the disease, his prognosis may yet be very good. His parents just have to wait and hope that he continues to fight the disease and continues to respond to treatment as and when the disease recurs. In the meantime, Matthew is focusing his efforts on training to get into shape for the ride (and can often be spotted out on his bike with the Amersham Road Cycling Club, or commuting to Berko station on his bright yellow Brompton); Nicky is readjusting to life after maternity leave; and little Toby is doing fantastically well, learning to walk and talk and beginning to enjoy all that village life has to offer!

Matthew and Nicky would like to thank everyone who has helped them through this difficult time, including all the staff at Great Ormond Street and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals, Dr Khan at the Chiltern Hospital who diagnosed the condition, their fantastic new neighbours at Rushmoor, and those others in the village that they have had the pleasure of meeting. The support of a local community has been invaluable to the family and they hope to play an active part in village life for many years to come. You can read more about Matthew's epic ride at <http://www.tourdelads.co.uk> and in case the story inspires you to help, can find details of how to sponsor Matthew's efforts at www.justgiving.com/tour-de-lads.

Submitted by Matthew Buckle.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

As I sat down to prepare a piece for "Community Call" I came across the following quotation:

"One of the marvellous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."

That is very apt for us here in Ashley Green! The Community Association plans and runs a very full schedule of events and activities as well as maintaining the halls to a high standard. It also works in co-operation with the other village bodies - the Church and the Parish Council - to provide support for people in the village. So many things which appear to happen apparently effortlessly - which we could not do as individuals.

All these things need people to make them work like that and we always try to encourage all villagers to play their part in the community in one way or another.

I continue to be heartened by the support of many villagers and would be delighted to welcome you at the **Community Association's AGM** at the **Old School - Tues 10th June 2014**. If you fancy lending us a hand, then we'd love to hear from you! Even if you don't want to join the Council, any help with future events or general support would be really appreciated.

David Hurling - Chairman AGDCA

"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF" **THE LETTINGS OFFICER**

Little did I know - when I took on the role of Lettings Officer back in 2011 - what an interesting part-time job it would turn out to be! New to the village and 'stuck' at home with a small child, it seemed serendipitous when a small piece of paper fluttered through my letterbox (with the latest edition of the excellent Community Call!) advertising for someone to manage the bookings at the halls.

It seemed ideal – approximately half an hour's flexible work a day, and a great opportunity to meet some of my new neighbours in the village. I applied and was offered the job, and (although convinced I only got it because of my convenient location within the village!) I looked forward to starting work. 'Trained' by the inimitable Lawrence Kidd, I started work with some trepidation. It was a lot more involved than I'd anticipated.

Since 2011, the workload has increased in line with the growing popularity of our halls. Located as we are, so conveniently, between Berkhamsted and Chesham, we get a lot of word-of-mouth recommendations and repeat bookings – especially from the mums at local schools. I am now in a position to remember hirers by name, booking their annual parties for the third year running!

I organise the diaries for the Memorial Hall and the Old School, booking in regular and ad-hoc hirers. I create Hiring Agreements and raise Invoices, collecting and banking payment and returning deposits. I work closely with the Association's Treasurer, Lesley and Caretaker, Dennis. I attend the monthly Association Committee Meetings, providing a report about the month's activity and feeding back any issues raised.

The work is interesting and varied, and occasionally funny! I have met a lot of interesting people - from within the village and outside. I have even taken a booking from as far afield as the Netherlands!

On a typical day there are always phone messages and emails to be answered. I try to do this every couple of days now that I am working full-time. (You would be amazed how many people leave party preparations, even the venue until the very last minute – you cannot afford to wait too long to contact people if you want to secure bookings!) Our most popular events are children's parties. There is also a trend to book teenage discos at the moment. (We do not book parties for those between the ages of 16 and 25 as we are a village location.) We also book lots of 'Big' birthday parties and a handful of Weddings / Christenings / Wakes based on our proximity to St John's Church.

Our aesthetically pleasing Old School Hall has been attracting plenty of attention recently. It has just been used by an independent film making company as the location for their film, 'The Stranger' – even using some local children as actors.

Also, with the current penchant for all-things-vintage it has been booked in May and June for pop-up vintage teas. I have had enquiries about a pop-up 1920s event too.

The Memorial Hall is booked regularly for voting. In May, it will be a 'rest stop' for a charity cycle ride. Other 'interesting' hires have included such diverse bookings as a pre-Indian wedding Celebration, A Garden Furniture Sale, Indian Dance Show and a Bat Walk.

I have also been approached by people who organise Boot Camps and Puppy Obedience Classes!

The AGDCA also use the hall regularly for community events - especially making use of the audio-visual equipment we have in there. The Royal Wedding, The Queen's Jubilee and various sporting events have been screened, in addition to the monthly Film Club, where the Memorial Hall is transformed into our very own Cinema-on-our-doorstep! The Ashley Green Women's Institute are planning to use the equipment to link with the WI Centenary in June 2015. Burn's Night Black-tie events, Chairman's and Valentines discos and Quiz Nights are also regularly held by the Association.

The halls in Ashley Green continue to be well-utilised by regular hirers too. The spacious Memorial Hall is particularly suited to physical and larger group activities. Regular activities that happen at the Memorial Hall include:

Berkhamsted Theatre Company rehearses on a Monday and Wednesday evening at 8.00pm.

Laura Thompson runs Pilates and Zumba classes on a Tuesday night, between 5.45 and 8.30pm and Denise Street runs Zumba classes on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 9.30am Short Mat Bowls is every Wednesday at 3pm.

Clare Wille teaches Ballet for Adults on Thursdays at 12.30, and Janet Clayton teaches one-to-one dance at various times. There is a Bridge Club every Thursday evening at 6pm.

In May, there will be a new Drop-In service for parents and young children on a Monday morning. (Further information to follow.)

There is plenty happening in the Old School too. Yvonne and Tony Rudge practise Salsa dancing on a Monday morning. For those with a more creative bent, there is an Art Group which meets to paint on a Monday night. There is also a mixed media Art class taught every Tuesday morning (term-time) at 10am, and a Writers' Group which meets at the same time, once a month. Upholsterers meet every Tuesday evening at 7pm. (Chris Chambers, who runs the Upholstery class, and Linda Jordan who teaches the mixed-media Art class, also run monthly Saturday Workshops too.)

The Old School is also home to Yoga on a Monday night at 8pm and the now established, Ashley Green Good Neighbour Group (formerly 'Cuppa and a Chat') which takes place every Thursday, from 11.00 -2.30 - all welcome.

Various Pilates classes (individual and group) take place in the Green Room, under the expert tutelage of Julie from Jet Pilates, and the Wykes Room is permanent home to Di Burnett's Youth Drama Groups. (She also runs a group on Monday evenings in the Old School between 5.00 and 6.30pm.)

The Old School, comprised of two separate rooms, also makes it an ideal venue for meetings. At present, it is booked regularly by the Ashley Green W.I, the Parish Council and Bucks County Council.

If you would like any further information about any of the activities listed above, or would like to make an enquiry about hiring one of the halls yourself, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Emma Allum, Lettings Officer: 07979 634988 or lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk.

Lettings bring in the main part of the revenue which we rely on to keep our facilities up to date. The Lettings Officer has to be on her toes - and she is! **Thanks Emma!**