

COMMUNITY CALL

DON'T FORGET



FROM THE CHAIR

At the AGM on 16 June I will be stepping down as Chairman of AGDCA, after 3 years in the role. My involvement in the Association has been fulfilling and much has been achieved. Above all, it has been about the people - the Committee, and their can-do attitude!

Together, as a team, we have formed closer ties with the Parish Council and, more significantly, the Church, forming the Ashley Green Good Neighbours Group. Massive improvements have been made to our facilities - with the extension in the Memorial Hall, the refurbishment of the Old School and various village enhancements, such as the Footpath Map on the Green. I feel that our endeavours have resulted in a closer community and excellent communication between the local groups. Our funds have grown, due to the increasingly successful Lettings business, together with the profits raised from our regular social events (notably the Summer Fair and Fireworks Night).

I cannot pass up on this opportunity to thank a few of the Team, who voluntarily give their time to the Community Association. Lesley Popescu, our Treasurer, is also stepping down in June and I must extend my gratitude to her for her loyalty and all her hard work. She has taken good care of the books over the last few years! Our "new" Secretary, Rob Youngs, has proved to be exceptionally efficient and his conscientiousness is impressive. My thanks also go to John Mayne, my Vice, who has been supportive.

Looking to the future - I do hope this momentum continues. More social events are planned (Summer Fair, Quiz Night, Fireworks, Christmas Party) and we ask that you consider attending the AGM on Tuesday 16 June at 8:00pm in the Old School, to become involved in this valuable and friendly band of villagers?

My heartfelt thanks to all those on the Community Association for their constant support. I've had a blast!

David Hurling

DON'T FORGET - COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM
Tuesday 16th June at 8.00pm
In the Old School

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What's On Summary 2015

See the notice boards & website for details

ANNUAL VILLAGE FAIR

Saturday June 6th

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

Tuesday June 16th

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday October 3rd

BONFIRE NIGHT

November 5th

Details of all events and activities - and who to contact - are all on the website.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

By joining the Community Association you become an integral part of your village and can meet your neighbours and friends at one of the many 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. If you are not a member yet, come on, join up now.

NEW VILLAGERS.

Welcome to Ashley Green. Still a few of you who have not joined up. Why not do so now?

Contact the Membership Secretary on:
01442 866549

VILLAGE BULLETINS

The AGCA Village News Bulletins are available by Email to everyone. You don't have to be a member for those. All you need to do is send in your name and Email address and you will be added to the list.

Ed. David Harmer - davedharmer@aol.com

WI NEWS

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

This year it is the Centenary of the Women's Institute and there are celebrations to mark the occasion all over the country.

We started off in Bucks. with a Centenary Celebration lunch at the Longville Hall at Newton Longeville near Milton Keynes on March 30th. Three of us, all dressed up to the nines, (see photo) had a great time meeting others, eating well and being entertained with close harmony singing by a terrific Duo - the "Polka Dots".



(Here we see Elizabeth Foster, Audrey Engert and Pat Harmer)

A WI baton is being carried around the country from town to town linking our many WIs - rather like the Olympic torch - and this will travel around Bucks. in April and was at the Wendover Garden Centre on 25th.

There will be 8000 places at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in early June. One of our members will be attending. The AGM will also be in early June at the Royal Albert Hall. This is always quite an overwhelming occasion, packed to capacity, especially as it is our 100th year.

The culmination of events in our area is an event at Waddesdon Manor solely for WI members in late June - a Garden Party, with side show, music, bands, trade stalls, demonstrations and competitions. Many of us are looking forward to this day, complete with our picnics and travelling rugs!

Closer to home our own WI continues to thrive with 30 members. In addition to our monthly meetings there are short country walks followed by pub lunches, occasional outings and interesting speakers including one of the best we have had in March about pearls with many, many, samples to buy.

We have seven members from this village and many more from Chesham, Berkhamsted, Bovingdon and Tring who really enjoy the camaraderie and fun at our monthly meetings.

We would give a warm welcome to more members, especially from Ashley Green.

Please join us and find out about the many interesting things available to all members of this terrific organisation.

VILLAGE WEDDINGS

CHRIS DENNIS and JOHN WYATT

Most of you will know Chris Dennis (Née Manning) who lives up Hog lane and runs our local woodyard business - G & MB Manning.

On January 24th she married John Wyatt in St. John's church here in Ashley Green. A true Village Wedding.



Here we see them at the reception at Pendley Manor.



We wish them every happiness!

OLIVIA HEFFERNAN AND ANDREW KOLVIN



On April 10th there was another wedding at St John's.

This time it was Olivia Heffernan, daughter of a regular churchgoer, who married Andrew Kolvin on a bright and sunny day. The reception was at the Chenies Cricket Club.

Congratulations.

“HIYO SILVER”

In true **LONE RANGER** style, when Sarah Bailey in Hog Lane looked out of her window one afternoon and saw two Shetland ponies trotting up and down the lane, she rushed out.

With her Husband, Tom, they managed to corner them and they then ran into a neighbours garden and who - seeing them eating their plants and grass - were not too pleased!

Tom grabbed some rope and fashioned a halter for them both and they were led away to await the arrival of their owner some time later.

Were they pleased to go back? **NEIGH!**



(It's all action here in the Wild West!)

MUST LOVE DOGS

Have you seen the “Must Love Dogs” van, regularly parked by the Memorial Hall?

This is manned (or is that wo-manned?) by Claire Wilmoth who runs a Dog Walking and House Sitting business in the area.

She comes to Ashley Green from Chesham with the dogs she walks because of the numerous footpaths (see the Village Footpath Map item) up here in Ashley Green and the wide open spaces of our village green and the Glebe.

She like it here so much that she has taken on a plot on our allotment site behind the Memorial Hall, is on our Bulletin list and is getting to know a lot of villagers.

Coming originally from Zimbabwe she has settled in well to the rural life in the UK, so if you see her, do say “Hallo”.



CHESHAM RURAL FORUM



The last Chesham Rural Forum meeting was in March. Our neighbourhood police officer, Kevin Flint, reported that although we are fortunate to live in an area with low crime rates we do need to remain vigilant with regard to home and car security as a many of the crimes committed could have been prevented.

Crimes from cars often occur when valuables are left in display and opportunist thieves will take advantage of this. In the same way leaving the house and forgetting to close open windows are an open invitation so remember to lock up!

If you would like advice on free property marking please contact the neighbour team - their email address can be found on the Thames Valley Police website or call the police non-emergency number, 101, and ask to speak to a member of the neighbourhood team.

“POP UP” EVENT - DUENDE

Over the weekend of 6th and 7th of February, the Memorial Hall once again turned into a “Pop Up” gourmet restaurant operated by a finalist from the Gary Rhodes TV show - Tim Zekki.

This followed a visit last October and it was a sell out yet again.



The food was excellent and the hall well decorated.

A good evening!

*(There may be a return visit.
Watch out for news.)*



ASHLEY GREEN “FREEBAY”

We started the Ashley Green version of “Freecycle” about a year ago and called it “FREEBAY”.

Here you can let us know that you have items that you no longer need and which are looking for a good home - **FREE OF CHARGE** - and we can advertise them via our Bulletins.

You can also advertise for things you might want, too. A good example is the case where a shed was needed for the allotment site. One was found with a day or two of advertising.

Don't forget - If you have anything you want to get rid of or are looking for, contact us via Email or via the Website.

THE SPRING SUPPER DANCE

A fabulous night was had by all at the Community Association "Spring Supper Dance" on Saturday 25th April.

Almost 80 neighbours and friends came along and following a two course supper, (all purchased from "COOK" in Berkhamsted) danced the night away to great music from Tom Axon and his band "Masters of the Tuneiverse".

It was lovely to see Beverley's daughter, Catherine, with some of her younger friends joining us although her mum Beverley and Carr Withall both took some keeping up with on the dance floor!

Special thanks to Gill Chapman who made the lovely spring floral decorations.

Back in the village for the event were Jo and Lawrence Kidd and Amanda and Roger Smith who recently hosted the Thursday "Lunch and Chat" group for Afternoon tea in Bourton-on-the-Water. So all in all a very successful event, with younger villagers, past villagers and the stalwarts making a night of it.

There was Lasagne al Forno, a Chicken and Mushroom Lasagne with a red pesto crust and vegetarian and gluten free options. There were bowls of salad and baguettes on the table too.

Dessert was raspberry roulade or mango and passion fruit cheesecake.

Another splendid event staged by the Ashley Green Community Association!



SPRING IN ASHLEY GREEN FLOWERS ON THE GREEN

I am sure most of you will have noticed the daffodils on the Green this year. They were a lovely welcome to spring and brightened up our village.

We offer our sincere thanks to the Chiltern Youth Action Team who kindly donated and planted them. They have also recently planted one hundred ox-eye daisies at the junction of Two Dells Lane and the main road.* Hopefully these will bloom in early summer and add interest to this corner of the Green.

We should also thank the unsung heroes of the village who frequently pick up the litter from the verges - no names, but you know who you are! A small group of villagers recently did a bit of guerrilla gardening, seeding and planting up areas along Two Dells Lane where there was some ground clearance last year. With luck this will reintroduce some of the wild flowers that used to grow along the banks there. Let us all make an effort to look after the village, and make it a pleasure to live here.

Mary Axon

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NB Since this article was written, unfortunately the mowing contractors disregarded the staked area protecting the plants and mowed them down. We will try and plant some more.*



Even the road signs are flowery!



Spring Blossom by the Old School

THE VILLAGE FOOTPATH MAP



If you have not yet noticed, we now have a smart footpath map on the village green to the left of the Memorial Hall erected at the end of last year. Whelpley Hill has a version too. The work was arranged via the Parish Council with funding assistance from the Ashley Green Community Association.

The idea emerged when it was felt that the existing A4-sized parish footpath map completed some 17 years ago by former Parish Council Chairman John Toovey, assisted by Mary Axon, should be updated and enlarged. A new edition would be of great assistance to walkers - especially the ones who can often be seen to mill about the green clutching incorrect and out of date instructions, and trying to get into the allotments!

Mary reports that: "We found a wonderful retired cartographer called Bill Willett, living in Berkhamsted, who spent hours revamping the map using modern computer software that makes printing in various sizes, and future editing, easy. We also wanted to retain most of the excellent wildlife notes and countryside code reminders of the old map".

John Axon - the Parish Council Chairman - and Mary, supervised the work and then spoke to various residents with good local knowledge to make sure the details were up to date. But, John warns, don't be too hard on us if you find your favourite house omitted or a footpath route changed. The ownership and layout of land around us is changing all the time and we had to maintain the clarity of the map.

The Parish Council has distributed A3 versions of this map to local pubs to assist walkers. We hope that this welcome addition on the Green will help everyone wanting to roam the countryside up here in our hill-top parish. Our thanks must be given to the Community Association, Parish Council, John and Mary Axon, and Bill Willett, for all their work in getting this project completed, and of course we are pleased to credit John Toovey once again for the excellent original concept.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of our newsletter, "Community Call" is due in November.

We rely on the contributions from you all to make this a success every time. Events, activities, trips you may have made, reports from the regular groups (and irregular) groups which use the halls here - everything is welcome.

Letters and comments and rants and raves too - we can consider anything that YOU think the villagers would like to read about, so start thinking now and prepare something for next time.

SPEEDWATCH

The speed of vehicles passing through Ashley Green is a concern to many and a number of people have started to take action. **Speedwatch** is a national arrangement supported by the Police and equipment is provided to be used by citizens to monitor the speed of traffic.

Where vehicles are measured as going above the speed limit plus 10% plus one mile an hour (*so faster than 34 mph in most of Ashley Green*) their details are recorded and passed to a Police volunteer who, using the National Police computer prepares a letter sent to the driver from the Police. This records the fact that speeding has occurred.

If they are reported again, anywhere in the Thames Valley Police area, within a defined period of time the matter is passed to Police officers to investigate a prosecution may follow.

The equipment used is owned by Waterside community association in Chesham and the activity is supported and insured by the Parish Council.

A group of volunteers has been out in Ashley green about six times but not since Christmas when the light was too poor. We need to get going again. Interesting that over four sessions in the same place and day of the week the number of speeding motorists dropped to zero.

Here are our team in action.



MYSTERY BIKE

Have you noticed a mystery in Ashley Green?

For some time - months now - there has been a smart and clean bike chained up to the Parish Council notice board outside the Old School. Several residents have commented that it doesn't seem to move at all and nobody has been seen unlocking it late at night and taking a spin round the green.



Are you the mystery rider? Any information?

ASHLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

The evening of May 20th from 7.30pm will see this year's Annual Parish Meeting of the Ashley Green Parish Council, followed by the AGM of the Parish Council and its May meeting, all at the Old School.

The Parish Meeting is held every year to allow residents of the Parish to hear a report of the Parish Council's activities over the previous year or so and learn of its costs and income for the financial year to the end of the previous 31st March. This meeting will see me retire as Chairman as well as our capable and popular Parish Clerk, Beverley Pommells. We hope to introduce Ann Black as her successor.

Whilst this Parish, with its village/rural location, normally is not much affected by the problems of acute traffic chaos, social deprivation, anti-social behaviour and the like, as seen in larger communities, we are aware of those issues which inconvenience some of the residents of Ashley Green and Whelpley Hill.

The state of road surfaces locally is a problem common to most Bucks villages and we seem to have been luckier in recent months to have had both a milder winter and a larger repair budget at Bucks County level to effect some improvements. The struggle to return all local roads to the standards of, say, 20 or 30 years ago is ongoing and a distant goal

We need to continue to encourage local householders to tidy up and maintain the environment near their own property. Flattened verges and overhanging hedges are no longer fixed by County road repair teams. Their work was been outsourced and budgets trimmed, so if you want to improve the standards and appearance near your home it is probably up to you.

That said, there are no easy answers for those who find the Snowhill Cottages area overflowing with parked cars when everyone there usually needs a car for work or family life. Attempting to introduce more draconian regulation of parking will only penalise our own parishioners.

Whilst the Parish Council vets all local planning applications it can only submit views to Chiltern District Council. New build or affordable homes are very difficult to create in this area of outstanding natural beauty. However, there is a worrying increase of cases where people press on with changes to property regardless of planning or building regulations, often making the assumption that they will deal with the local authority if or when they raise objections and not before. As a parish council we are sympathetic to people seeking to improve their homes or create more living space but a free-for-all on planning issues eventually degrades the area. We fear we shall have to call in the enforcement people at Chiltern DC more often.

Another planning issue that is starting to emerge is the "Solar Farm". These are arrays of solar panels designed to generate electricity and earn income for the landowner and the energy companies that build and finance them. There are innovative schemes to share some of the income with the local community and so ease some of the objections that might arise with such development. These sites would normally be silent and non-polluting of the local environment. The problems tend to arise over the visual intrusion they can represent. We have seen two proposals for such "Farms" which are yet to seek formal planning approval in the parish. Expect more local presentations of this technology in the coming years.

VE DAY - 70th ANNIVERSARY

From the British Legion Website:-

"Everyone who lived through the Second World War remembers what they were doing when the end of war in Europe was announced. 70 years later we will commemorate this special day on 8 May 2015 and the following weekend. It's an opportunity for the whole country to come together as one, once more, and remember the courage and bravery of all those who delivered victory in Europe in 1945."

Marking the Anniversary here in Ashley Green Sunday 10th May

Here in Ashley Green the weekend of the celebrations coincides with the annual Rogation lunch and walk and the Church and Community Association are planning to jointly host the celebration. There will be a Ploughman's lunch from 12.00 in the Memorial Hall followed by a ramble around part of the parish boundary and then back to the hall at about 3pm for tea and cake.

Many of the people who remember what it felt like to be part of the 1945 celebrations will be unable or will not want to take part in the walk and so we are planning for some activities in the Memorial Hall including hopefully linking into the celebrations that will be shown on TV.

WAY BACK THEN

Ashley Green was called a sheep village then as sheep and cattle grazed all over the green, no fences barred the way and the village was probably a third of the size it is today. Very few villagers had cars everyone used a bike or walked to town and back, carrying shopping up the hill! The two wells were still working and the village shop sold everything bar alcohol (leave that to the Eagle) and baked bread for all.

Self sufficiency was vital and every village garden would have their own vegetable plot not to mention a few hens, ducks, pigs and rabbits that you could always sell to the local butchers. The children grew their own vegetables and cooked their own school dinners and if you were milk monitor that meant walking across to the farm and waiting for the farmer to milk the cow.

With all the young men serving away from home the whole atmosphere of the village changed during the war as many evacuees from London arrived to fill the empty rooms. Many of these children had never visited the countryside before and there were quite a few who really didn't want to leave by the end of their stay.

Many planes were heard overhead but only two doodlebugs landed in the fields nearby. The shilling hops in the village hall were probably the most exciting things that happened.

There were a number of American camps nearby and many of the local girls took a shine to the Yanks. Most villagers would visit the "hops" in Berkhamsted and the cinema at least once a week and think nothing of cycling home late at night in the dark. With the Black Watch based in the town their used to be guards on duty at Brickhill Green. They always had their guns at the ready and the cry of "Halt who goes there" would usually receive a very cheeky response.

(Previously published in 2005. Thanks to Rene Hollylee and Lorna Ingham.)

BUCKS OPEN STUDIOS



This June sees the return of the “Bucks Open Studios” - a county wide event for all the family and featuring the work of a group of local artists.

**The exhibition runs from
Saturday June 6th until Wednesday June 10th
12 noon until 6pm.**

Hastoe Village Hall, near Tring, will be hosting an exhibition of the work of six of these artists closest to Ashley Green.

Hastoe Village Hall, Church Lane, Hastoe,
Near Tring, HP23 6LU
Tel: 01442 873279

One of the artists is our own Elizabeth Foster who has a studio at Ash House in Hog Lane. She is showing a powerful display of bronze portraits and a colourful collection of fused glass and silk greeting cards.

Elizabeth's website is at www.ashhouse-arts.co.uk

Commissions gladly accepted.

Why not come along to see what is on offer - and you will be able to sample the cream teas as well.



Further details at:-

<http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk/info.asp>

MANY THANKS

A number of the newcomers to Ashley Green have come forward and volunteered to help at the Village Fair this year.

This way people do get to know other villagers and have a bit of fun too and is very encouraging to see people wanting to get involved in where they live, so **Many Thanks** to you all.

Don't forget that you can find more about what goes on here if you come to the Annual General Meeting on June 16th. Ed

CUPPA AND CHAT

Now “LUNCH AND CHAT”

I think you will all know about the Community Venture started well over a year ago known as “Cuppa and Chat” - a weekly meeting place to allow people to get out, have a chat, and meet their neighbours and also enjoy a cuppa and a snack too.

This has been very successful with a regular clientele, and things have moved on so that a proper lunch is now served instead of the snack sandwich or soup. Lasagne, or cottage pie and salads go down very well!

That being the case the name has altered slightly and thus is now to be know as the “**Lunch and Chat**”.

It is open to everyone so if you feel you would like to get out once a week just turn up at the Old School at Midday on a Thursday and you will receive a warm welcome.

Visit to Bourton-on-the-Water

On the 16th April, 28 members and volunteers took a fabulous trip to Bourton on the Water for afternoon tea.

The sun shone on us all day and after admiring the ducklings on the River Windrush we made our way to the “Smiths of Bourton” tea shop which is owned and run by Amanda and Roger Smith who used to live here in Ashley Green.

We arrived to half a dozen tea tables already laden with sandwiches, cakes, scones and lemon posset - all home-made by Amanda, served by Roger and absolutely delicious.

We reluctantly dragged ourselves away and wandered out into the sunshine for some retail therapy before heading home. It was super day and thank you to everybody that came along to make it special and to those that missed it - we'll see you next time!

Jacquie Rose



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Email - lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk

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St. John's Church - Ashley Green
In aid of Church funds

BARN DANCE
with
THE COCK & BULL BAND

Bar

7.30 pm
Saturday 16th May
2015
At The Memorial Hall, Two
Dells Lane, Ashley Green, HP5
3RB

Tickets £15.00
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For tickets or more information call Val Rolls 01442 833150
or Rodney Newth 01443 878795

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"LUNCH AND CHAT"

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