

COMMUNITY CALL

SO - HOW ARE WE DOING? AN UPDATE

We have been busy in the last six months with our successful Annual Fair, Bonfire Night, the Pond Clearance, Cream Teas in the church and many more activities.

Our lettings manager has been rushed off her feet with the number of enquiries for hiring our halls, so much so that nearly all the slots are filled and we continue to thrive as a community.

Don't forget the events that are to come:- Theatre in the villages, the Christmas family party and the Burns Night Supper in 2017.

It would be nice if more people were to come forward, however, to bring new ideas and fresh talents to what we do. Village newcomers - Can you help?

However, on a darker note, in "Community Call" in May we reported a number of issues that would seem to threaten us here in Ashley Green and we are working hard to keep on top of these to the benefit of our community.

What follows is an update report about these "Threats"

John Mayne (Chairman - Ashley Green Community Association).

THE OLD SCHOOL OWNERSHIP ISSUE

You will have read in the last issue of this newsletter about the District Council's attempts to try to claim sole ownership of the Old School. Should they succeed then they would ask the Community Association to take out a lease on the building at a very high rental and also make it responsible for the maintenance of the entire building. The financial implications could mean that we simply might not be able to afford to keep an interest in the building.

The school is of great value to our community and so we have had a team of dedicated villagers working hard to counter this threat and to try to persuade the council officials that their proposals are draconian and to try to reach a common understanding about the future.

We have already prepared a response, suggesting ways in which we could work with the council and offering our approach in terms of finance and ownership to try to reach agreement. This was sent to them some time ago.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, no further communication has been received from the District Council in response. The ball is in their court now.

It might be that their experience of such matters is not as informed as ours and they are now not sure how to proceed.

Lets face it, we know they are being forced to make cuts to reduce their spending and control a smaller budget - as are councils across the country - but aiming at a the apparently "soft" target of a thriving community facility does not seem to be sensible at all

We are in discussion with the Land Registry and are trying to ensure that should any claim be lodged against the building by any third party (i.e. the Council), then we would, as the Community Association, be informed in good time.

Meanwhile, your Community Association is keeping alert to what the Chiltern District Council might do.

If you have information or experience of such matters then, please, do get in touch for we need to be forearmed. We will keep you abreast of any developments via our village Bulletins.

Contents

Page 1 - How are we doing. School Ownership
Page 2 - Local Plan Update. Good Neighbours
Page 3 - Pond Cleaning, Old boys,
Page 4 - Art group, Bowls Club, Parish Council
Page 5 - Choir, Bonfire Night, Must Love Dogs, Ducks
Page 6 - Village Fair
Page 7 - The Eagle, News from St. John's
Page 8 - Adverts

What's On Summary 2016/2017

Theatre in the Villages

"Victor and Albert"

November 19th - in the Memorial Hall

Association Christmas Party

In the Old School

December 11th

Burns Night Supper

January 21st - in the Memorial Hall

*See back page for details of these events.
(Details of all events and activities are on the Website and in the Notice Boards as well.)*

VILLAGE BULLETINS

The Village News Bulletins have been running for over three years now and are available by Email to everyone. They contain all information of direct interest to Ashley Green residents - **everyone**. You don't have to be an association member to receive them.

Send in your name and Email address to:

David Harmer: davedharmer@aol.com

Do your neighbours receive the Bulletins?
If not encourage them to get in touch.

ASHLEY GREEN "FREEBAY"

The village "FreeBay" service is still operating. This allows people to advertise things they no longer need and which are looking for a good home - Free of Charge.

They can also ask for items that they are looking for. Over 70 items moved so far and several in October.

Details all on the Website.

Printed by Orbit Press Chesham.

Tel 01494 778053

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S "LOCAL PLAN"

You will recall that the District Council published a draft of their "LOCAL PLAN" as requested by the Government to show how they might deliver areas for more housing and business/industrial development to cover the next 20 years.

You may also recall that they published maps to show where these plans would take effect, and the most alarming seemed to show that they were allocating land about the size of 250 football pitches to industrial development either side of the A416 - the Chesham Road - a very serious threat indeed.

At a public meeting called by the Community Association the councillors managed to put their case in a much clearer way than that which was written in the report. They did explain that the map only showed where they would be investigating possibilities but that the final area for such development would be quite small and possibly not even near our village at all.

A new version of the "LOCAL PLAN" was to be issued later.

Well, it has recently been published as promised and you can see the details at the District Council's website at

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/planning/localplan2014-2036>
(Note - The plan itself is 64 pages long!)

At first sight it would appear, at least for the moment, that Ashley Green is not zoned for any development since all references to "Industrial" and "Housing" developments have been dropped. This would look like a bit of a victory for the Community Association because it was, after all, the leader of the council who saw how against the proposals we were at the meeting and so they backed down. It might be, however, that the original proposal was a scare tactic so that the council would then get the lesser scheme they always wanted.

The newly marked area - extending along the other side of Lycrome Road and Lye Green Road and not in Ashley Green - has been marked as being "The area proposed for release from the Green Belt". See map below

Nevertheless the proposal still represents a major development right next to the Parish and therefore a threat which has not gone away entirely and so people still might care to look at the plan and be encouraged to comment.



Several issues still remain. The area marked for Chesham is the largest in the whole district which begs the issue as to exactly why? No areas appear to have been marked in Chesham Bois, Great Missenden, Prestwood, Gerrards Cross, and other bigger towns in the south of the district.

The Plan also suggests 900 houses will be built and a Travellers site may be considered. Thinking ahead that would mean the need for a greatly improved infrastructure in terms of Schools, since if there are 900 houses then that could potentially mean 1800 children, and also Medical and Dental facilities.

Our roads system might also need to be improved too, since the impact of greatly increased traffic volumes on Lycrome Road and Lye Green Road the feeder roads into Chesham - White Hill and Eskdale Avenue - would be significant.

Given that this is a loss of Green Belt now then who knows when the land round Ashley Green will come under scrutiny?

There is a period of discussion allocated up into December before the plan is finalised, and there will be exhibitions of the detail of the plans round the CDC area.

Everyone will be watching to see how the details unfold.
Watch this Space!
Roger Watts

ASHLEY GREEN GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP Thursday "Lunch and a Chat"

The lunch club continues to thrive and of course is open to all within our Parish, and some from further afield. All welcome.

A delicious meal is served every Thursday between 12pm and pm in The Old School and we do have some great chats and laughs. Thanks to funding provided by the Ashley Green Community Association and the Ashley Green Parish Council and with the support of St John the Evangelist Church we are able to continue to run this great community project.

This summer we took a trip to The Gardens of the Rose in St Albans, had a movie and afternoon tea in the Memorial Hall and a fabulous trip to Waddesdon Manor (below) whose staff went out of their way to make our day with them a great success.



All of this would not happen of course without our dedicated band of 10 helpers who work on a five week rota to plan, shop, cook and serve the lunches. However, we are in (almost) desperate need of extra people to join us so that we are not so stretched.

If you can help out then please get in touch with Jacquie Rose on jacquierose@lineone.net. If you can't help out you are still very welcome to join us for lunch, no booking required just drop in and meet some new neighbours.

Jacquie Rose

POND CLEANING ON THE GREEN

Back in February the Chiltern Society had scheduled a trip, co-ordinated by the Parish Council, to Ashley Green to clear the pond on the Green but a villager noticed a lot of activity in the waters - the frogs were busily making more frogs - so the cleaning was postponed until October 29th.



On the day, a small body of the Chiltern Society volunteers arrived but, sadly, only **SIX** villagers turned up to help as well!!

A mass of muck was cleared out and deposited in the skip provided (*see photo*).

Thanks to the Chiltern Society team for their efforts and thanks to all villagers who came too. It really was a pity that more people did not feel they could come out and help though.

However, at the time of publication, another session was being planned for November 12th while the pond stays dry, and it looks like we will have a better turn out for that. Let's hope so!

This is **Your Village**, and we do need your support in all the things like this! More news later,

THE OLD SCHOOL - OLD BOYS RETURN

While we have been dealing with the issue of ownership, coincidentally several old pupils got in touch.

DICK WALLER AND FAMILY



Dick Waller was a pupil here during the second World War. He now lives in Wigginton and appears in the film shot in the village in 1940. He came up in November 2015 together with his wife, Sue, his eldest son, Jon, with his wife Lee and children, Coral and April, and his youngest son Matt. Jon was a pupil 1968 to 1974.

They toured the building, pointing out where they had sat and (in Jon's case) where had had the cane for being naughty.

A thought did occur to him that the freedom they appeared to have in the 40s was not so apparent in the 70s.

Everyone was most impressed by the way the building was so well maintained and pleased to hear that the Community Association was thriving and doing such a good job in the village.

(If you have not seen the film mentioned above go to our Website.
http://www.ashleygreen.org.uk/in_the_news.html

DR DAVID BECKITT

We received a query, via the website, for information about the school from **Dr David Beckitt** who was evacuated here from 1943 to 1944. He writes:-

"I wondered if the school was still in existence as I am considering a bequest in my will.

My sister and I were evacuated from our home in Leigh on Sea at the mouth of the Thames, moving to stay with "Uncle" Bert' and "Auntie" Doris (I think?) in the corner shop opposite the school.

I received a superb start to my education under a Mrs. Glover in a class of about 10. When we returned home I was thrust into a class of 40 pupils, many of whom had had no education at all, but I could read books, do both joined up writing and fractions - unlike them and all learned in Ashley Green.

Perhaps I see Ashley Green through rose tinted spectacles but I remember it with enormous affection and seeing Uncle Bert's shop on the corner in the film you attached made it even more lovely. Many Thanks"

STEPHEN JAMES

Stephen James is the son of Mrs James, the Headmistress at the Ashley Green school during the Second World War and who appeared in the film shot in 1940 (*mentioned previously*) as part of a set of propaganda films designed to show how life out in the countryside was carrying on during the war.

Her narration focussed on how life continued here in Ashley Green at that time and the whole thing centred around the school, the pupils and the evacuees and shows some great views of the village.

Stephen lives in Berkhamsted now and recently came to visit the school just to see how the building was holding up and to see the place where his mother taught and where they lived.

Here is Mrs James as she was in 1940 at the school and having a cuppa too.



Any other old pupils with memories they would like to share in the next issue of "Community Call"?

ASHLEY GREEN ART GROUP

Our Art Group - the oldest group affiliated to the Community Association - have had a successful and enjoyable summer in Ashley Green. Once again we exhibited in the Village Hall at the Village Fair in June, and again throughout August in the Church, where Cream Teas were served every Sunday.

Here is our display in St. John's.



At those events, some pictures were sold. We charge a 10% commission on sales, and this year we donated that money to St Michael's in Amersham as they kindly loan us their display stands, free of charge, each year.

The group has a break throughout August but we did meet up on one Sunday at College Lake near Tring. The weather was glorious and a pleasant day was spent sitting out and painting the scenery.

We do have a vacancy in the group. If anyone would like to join us - whether they are brilliant artists or perhaps have never picked up a brush since their school days - they will be very welcome to join us on Monday evenings in The Old School from 7.30pm.

Contact:- **Margaret Bowler 01442 862294**

ASHLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL.

This past year has seen a change in the Ashley Green Parish Council, which covers the wards of both Ashley Green and Whelpley Hill despite these villages being geographically separate.

The incumbent Chairman - John Axon - stepped down after his very successful term of three years and Beverley Pommels - the Parish Clerk - stepped down at the same time after serving us so well. We must thank them both for the work that they have put in for us all.

Our new Chairman is Jan Ship and the Parish Clerk is Marilyn Wood.

Due to health, and business reasons two other councillors had to step down, but the gaps have now been filled and the council is back to strength. We wish the new "team" every success.

Last month they were actively involved with the co-ordination of the cleaning of the pond on the Green here which took place under the steady hand of the Chiltern Society.

For all details, including minutes of meetings, use their website:-
www.ashleygreenparishcouncil.org.uk

BROADWAY BOWLS CLUB COMING TO ASHLEY GREEN

The Broadway Bowls Club was founded in 1929 and has been playing on their site situated in Lowndes Avenue, Chesham, since the 1920's when they were members of Broadway Baptist Church. The area then was very different from what we see today, being situated amongst fields on the outskirts of Chesham town where a few enthusiasts enjoyed a gentle game of bowls.

Following the later development of the area, the members bought the current site, and in the 1980s acquired some additional adjoining waste land to increase the size and that is when the current "Log Cabin" clubhouse was built.



The club has been very successful but since we only have one green and no car parking and a decline in membership, when a developer and the council and a began discussions about affordable housing for our ground we decided it might be a good time to sell to finance the future of the club.

We began looking around and found that it might be possible to acquire the old football pitch in Ashley Green which is by the defunct recycling layby along the Chesham Road.

We already have planning permission for the site in Ashley Green, but we are still waiting for the same for our existing site. It has already taken over a year to get the councils ruling and we are now in the process of lodging an appeal.

Assuming things get moving we would be looking to start work in the Spring, but it is "wait and see" at present.

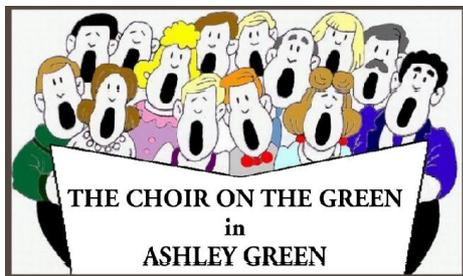
We were overwhelmed with the positive feedback we got from the locals when we had a stall at the Ashley Green village fair in the summer. It was nice to feel wanted and we look forward to coming to the village.

We want to be part of the community and offer something the village doesn't have. What better way to spend time in the sun up in the village playing a quiet game of bowls.

When we have more details and a date we will announce it in your Village Bulletins and maybe you would like to come and see us and even become members.

(Thanks to Daphne Halsey for some of the text)





The “CHOIR ON THE GREEN”

Did you know we had a **Community Choir** in Ashley Green?

Yes - about a year ago a young musician called Paul Bullen moved in to Ashley Green and almost immediately booked the Memorial Hall and advertised that he was starting a choir in the hall on a Monday Evening.

The response was tremendous! His “Taster” Session saw almost 80 people turn up to see what this was all about.

That was a year ago and numbers have settled to about 25-30 at present.

Paul says “Anyone who wants to sing can come along. They don’t have to have sung before, and they don’t have to be able to read music, but what they must have in the enthusiasm to give it a go. When they have done that they will realise how great it is. People who have never sung before suddenly find that they can sing and just want to do more.”

Paul chooses songs that people might know - mostly popular pieces - issues the words and then plays each part in turn until everyone knows the tune, then part by part he brings them in until they are singing in four part harmony.

It sounds terrific when the piece is finished.

Does this interest you? Just drop Paul an Email to let him know you are coming (paul@paulbullen.com) or simply come along on a Monday evening to the Memorial Hall

MUST LOVE DOGS



Have you seen the “**Must Love Dogs**” van, regularly parked by the Memorial Hall? This is manned by Claire Wilmoth who runs a Dog Walking and House Sitting business in the area.

She writes “As a dog walker I have been most grateful over the past seven years to the Ashley Green residents, for not only welcoming me to this area to walk my dogs but also including me in all the village activities.

Being a dog walker one has to respect the village, this means not walking too many dogs at a time, as this can form a pack and it's unfair on others who are walking their dogs. However I feel the most important issue is for me to clean up after all my dogs! Especially on the public areas of the Glebe and the pathways. It is common courtesy and it would only jeopardise my business if I did not pick up their mess. I have been running the business for just over seven years and it's extremely successful.”

Got a dog to walk?

Call 07540 287704. Website www.dogwalkingservice.org.uk

BONFIRE NIGHT 2016

The Bonfire & Fireworks night this year was a great success and enjoyed by all. Being on a Saturday and a lovely evening weather wise helped with the enjoyment. The ground was hard, so no mud to contend with and it was all set up in plenty of time. There was a steady stream of people from 6 pm. onward and the sparklers, mulled wine and sausages sold out.

The bonfire was very good, but the fireworks suffered a technical hitch when one hit a wire and fused the entire circuit which caused 10 minute delay. They had had to be set off by hand after that which made the display a bit disjointed, but it lasted longer so all was well in the end. Our thanks to Stuart Barrington-Hall, who has been running the fireworks display for the village for around 15 years, for overcoming that problem and giving another great display.



An event of this size requires very careful planning. We must take every care to make it safe. A full risk assessment is carried out and a plan published so that everyone knows what to do.

We have Stewards to ensure people are kept well away from the fire and the fireworks, a team of First Aiders, People to man the desk at the entrance and many additional helpers to prepare and serve the food and drinks. The team always turn up trumps and this year was no exception. Thanks to everyone who made this such a success.

No little thanks too to the residents of Ashley Green who accept any disturbance that so many people can sometimes cause, with great calm!

WHERE DID THE DUCKS GO?

We, along with several other villagers, had frequent visits from a pair of ducks over the winter and spring months. They would wait outside our back door every morning for their breakfast, occasionally tapping on the window to hurry us up. They became very tame, often waddling into the kitchen to have a chat. Last July, Mrs. Duck honoured us with her presence by building a nest under a large fern next to our pond and four weeks later, nine beautiful ducklings appeared. Within hours they were swimming on the pond and we were delighted. But to our horror twenty four hours later she rounded up her tiny family and marched them down the garden straight under the greedy gaze of a family of crows and a line of magpies sitting on the fence.

So I rounded them up and fenced them in safely by the pond. They settled well with regular feeds of duck food but ten days later, the inevitable happened, Mrs. Duck and her family disappeared. There were sightings of them over the next two weeks but they were gone. I wonder how many ducklings survived. Does anyone know? Did you see them?

Mary Axon

OUR ANNUAL VILLAGE FAIR

Not the hot, bright and sunny day that we had hoped, but nevertheless people turned out to enjoy the usual fun of the fair.

The dogs performed, the classic cars rolled in, Pimms and teas and cakes were served and a good time was had by all.

Here are a selection of photos from the day, courtesy of Lisbeth Cameron and Rodney Newth.



Pimms anyone?

One of the performers gets a stroke, but another doesn't want to perform at all.



Beverley tries for a prize, as does Roger.



May I see your Licence for that, please?



Trying for a prize too



Henna "Tattoo"



Teas in the Hall



Heave Ho!



Thanks to **ALL** helpers and especially to Roger and Shelagh Watts for co-ordinating things for another successful year.

Lets hope the weather improves next year!

THE GOLDEN EAGLE - OUR PUB



There has been a pub in Ashley Green since the late 1600s and, some 350 years later it is still going strong. It is the social hub of the village and many of the village organisations come to have monthly lunches and evening meals here.

Helen - our genial landlady - has taken an extension on her lease for another five years which shows how confident she is that the Golden Eagle will continue to thrive.



Helen and daughter Megan



There are regular events, such as the Quiz night and "Pick the Joker" and also one off events such as the recent live music evenings.

There are also themed evening such as the Tapas, Steak and Curry nights - and many more. The regular Lunch and Evening Menus are varied and food is sourced locally, and there are always "Specials" during the week.

CHRISTMAS MEALS

Christmas Meals will be served from December 1st to 24th this year and menus are now available on the website and in the pub. Book early for a table at Christmas!

We must not forget the wide range of ales and wines too. You can sample the "guest" ales which are on tap each week.

Email:- www.thegoldeneagleashleygreen.co.uk

Phone:- 01442 863549



ST. JOHN'S - OUR CHURCH

On Sunday October 23rd there was a special service at St. John's with the Bishop of Buckingham - the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson - officiating at a service of Baptism and Confirmation during which he also dedicated the new windows which finished off the new kitchen in the church.

The Bishop joked that he had attended many services, but never one to dedicate kitchen windows.

These windows have been commissioned and donated by Christine (Chris) Wyatt and Barbara Badden, the daughters of Geoff and Marian Manning who started Mannings Woodyard along Hog Lane and now run by Christine. Chris and Barbara were amongst those who were confirmed, so it was a special day for them.

One window is dedicated to the memory of Geoff and Marian. It shows the Bucks countryside with Red Kites - suitable since Marian's maiden name had been Kite.

The other, showing St. Francis, is dedicated to the work of the Hospice of St. Francis in Berkhamsted. The chaplain from the hospice and the hospice choir were there and the choir sang during the service.



The church was packed for this special service which was completed with a Communion. The Bishop and our vicar - Hilary Wilson - were really kept busy.

Many relatives, friends and villagers were there and after the service tea and cakes were served in the Memorial Hall.

CAROLS ANYONE?

The Annual Carol Service at **ST. JOHN'S** will be at 6.00pm on Sunday December 18th this year. For the 16th year we will have a choir to help make this a special start to Christmas.

There will also be a Carol evening at the "**GOLDEN EAGLE**" on Wednesday December 21st, The "**CONSORT**" will be there to lead the singing and bring you other Christmas music too.

Come and have a sing.
Collection for charity!

Do come along to both these festive events!

ADVERTS

Why not advertise your enterprise/activity here? Contact us with details. Email:- davedharmer@aol.com. Tel 01442 874931

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.

(Other small buildings also available.)

Take a tour to see the halls:-

www.ashleygreen.org.uk/hall_slideshow.html

contact

The Lettings Officer - (Email only)

lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk

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

"LUNCH AND CHAT"

INFORMAL SOCIAL GROUP
ALL WELCOME

in

**The Old School
Ashley Green**

EVERY THURSDAY
For a "Cuppa" & Chat

and

Lunch

12.00am to 2.00pm

ASHLEY GREEN GOOD NEIGHBOUR GROUP

**PLAY
Time**

Every Thursday

10.30am - 12.00 o'clock

A Friendly Toddler and Baby group
for anyone looking after little ones!

THE OLD SCHOOL

CHESHAM ROAD

ASHLEY GREEN

HP5 3PP

Please feel free to just turn up, we'd love to see you!

or Contact : Susie - 07969726709
Maggie - 07783380049

Ashley Green Community Association

**FAMILY
CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER
6.00pm in the Memorial Hall**

Association Members - FREE

Children - FREE

Non Members - £2.00

THE ASHLEY GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

presents

Victor and Albert



Tickets £15
Cash Bar

Cheeseboard during
Interval

"An A - Z of Love"

(An Evening of Musical Entertainment)

in

The Memorial Hall - Ashley Green
Saturday November 19th 7.30pm for 8.00pm

For Tickets and Information contact Lesley Popescu

Email:- lesley.popescu@gmail.com

Have you tried our local farm shop??

**Johns Lane Farm
FARM SHOP**

NEW →

WE NOW SELL

CALOR Gas



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

The Ashley Green Community Association presents a

**BURNS NIGHT
SUPPER**

Traditional Scottish Supper & Dancing

In the Memorial Hall on
January 21st, 2017

Ticket £25.00

(Includes 3 course meal and a whisky shot)

Dress Ladies - A touch of Tartan

Men - Black Tie or Smart evening. (Kilts welcome)

6.30 start

Carriages 1145

Tickets available from Jan Barbour. Call 07702 790 444.

There is a Licensed Bar - rather than "Bring Your Own".

(Note - Haggis is an optional side dish, with Venison Stew as the main course.)

Dancing to Live Music

Details of all events can be found on the Website and in the notice boards