

# COMMUNITY CALL

## THE OLD SCHOOL - AN UPDATE



The issue of ownership of the Old School and the Chiltern District Council's proposal of to require the Community Association to enter into a lease have now somewhat calmed down. In the last 12 months a number of positive meetings have been held which suggest that matters are now progressing in a way more beneficial to the Community Association.

The point of the Council's claim to ownership remains unclear but it does now seem that there is little appetite their part to go to the very significant legal expense that would be required to clarify the situation. CDC have been here several times before and it is likely to be the case that even if this course was taken, ownership could not be clearly established.

Without Title CDC are not really in a position to grant us a lease.

Nevertheless, the Council have, in the meantime, indicated to us that they may have funds to carry out further works to the exterior of the building going forward. This is good news.

It must be appreciated that CDC are in a difficult position here and that the Old School periodically costs them money to repair but that they are seeing no return other than, of course, the great public benefit the resource of the Old School provides to this community and to many other groups.

An interesting bit of news has recently arisen in that, at the time of the legal dispute between Lord Chesham and CDC (which was not concluded satisfactorily) apparently an agreement was reached whereby the Old School would be rented to the Community Association for 1p per year and that the two parties would not fight over who actually owned the Old School as neither could prove Title.

We are trying to track down whether there is any more detail available in this regard. Watch this space!!

## INVOLVEMENT

We have seen many people leaving our village over the past few years and in the process we sometimes lose someone who has been involved in village life and helped on the committee or with our events. There are lots of new faces coming in but only a few come along to fill these gaps and help in the village.

We really do need new faces, with new ideas and new enthusiasm. Without this it becomes more of a challenge for those who do work hard to keep the community spirit alive. Do you have time to get more involved in the village activities? Have you ideas for new events/activities. What would you like to see happen in the village? Can you spare a little time?

*(If you can, please contact the editor - [davedharmer@aol.com](mailto:davedharmer@aol.com))*

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## What's On Summary 2017/18

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY  
*Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>*

CAROL SERVICE ST. JOHN'S  
*Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>*

CAROLS IN THE "EAGLE"  
*Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup>*

VALENTINE'S DINNER/DANCE  
*Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>*

ST. JOHN'S BARN DANCE  
*Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>*

VILLAGE FAIR 2018  
*Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Details of all these events and activities can be found on the Website, in the Notice Boards. and via the Bulletins.

Ashley Green Community Association

**FAMILY  
CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
6.00pm in the Old School**

**Mulled wine**

**Refreshments**

**Raffle**

**Christmas Carols**

Association Members - FREE

Children - FREE

Non Members - £2.00

# GOINGS AND COMINGS in ASHLEY GREEN

## GOING - OUR POSTMAN, DAVE



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August the Golden Eagle at Ashley Green was overflowing with villagers saying “Thank you and Au Revoir” to Dave Leggett who has just retired from his position as postman to the village. Dave has been the postman for Ashley Green village for the past 15 years and finally decided to retire at the end of July. His little red van and shorts (in almost all weathers!!) have become a familiar - and much loved sight throughout the village - and he will be sorely missed in the future, though he has promised to return to see his past customers and to attend the famous village fete in June.

The Community Association decided to recognise his service to the village by inviting residents to contribute to a leaving gift and his general popularity can be measured by the fact that over the past 2 weeks a very considerable sum has been donated, which was given to him at the Golden Eagle event.

Dave is a man who seems to be always cheerful, has a ready smile, looked out for people who were not well, indeed showed a real community spirit. He made his deliveries in all sorts of conditions, responded to the needs of people who might be away for a long time, and went above and beyond the call of duty for the sake of his customers, many of whom consider him a friend.

That is why the village wanted to recognise his retirement and thank him for his service. On Friday, he was given a cheque, (which he will probably put towards his long-planned visit to Australia) and some theatre vouchers to help him go on some of his loved visits to the west end theatres, as well as a memorial photo of the village Postbox in the snow!

The village will not forget his great service to us all.

*(This piece appeared - courtesy of Cindy and John Poston - on the front page of the Bucks Examiner)*



## GOING - OUR LANDLADY, HELEN

In the last issue of “Community Call” we announced that Helen, our landlady at the Golden Eagle was to leave.

At the end of August she finally stepped down and everyone wanted to wish her well. In the afternoon of August 26<sup>th</sup> the lunch club people presented her with a present and some flowers too.



That same evening villagers, regulars, family and friends all turned up to wish Helen safe journey and good luck. There had been a collection for her and a very handsome sum was collected and handed over to her. The Community Association gave her a painting of the pub to remind her of the many years she had been there as both staff and then Landlady.

She has done a great job at the pub and all the village know how much hard work she has put in over the years to ensure that “Our Pub” provided the highest level of service!

Thanks Helen, and Good Luck!



*Here she is with her “Team”.*



*A group of villagers, regulars, friends and family.*

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News about the new managers and the future of the “Golden Eagle” appears in a later page.

## GOING - OUR CARETAKER, DENNIS

Dennis Clifford took on the role of Caretaker many years ago - so many that even he can't remember exactly - but it was probably about the time the Community Association was formed to manage the Old School site and the Memorial Hall, also known as the Village Hall.

He took on the work of cleaning, making sure the rubbish was taken away (when hirers left it behind), and some maintenance work wherever it was needed. He was there if anyone had difficulty getting in or working any of the appliances, and made sure the water supply to the allotments went on and off at the right time.

There were so many tasks they are too numerous to list - a proper "caretaker" in fact.

As the years passed, the lettings have increased dramatically and the work of cleaning increased too as the number of feet that pounded the floors went up. Maintenance too was always a major task and just keeping everything up to the highest standard became very time consuming.

This year Dennis retired - a well earned rest indeed. To mark the occasion there was a presentation.

Roger Watts - one time chairman of the Community Association - made the presentation which included a plaque which would be hung in the Old School as a mark of thanks from the Association for all that work over all those years..



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## MARGARET HELEN EDENBOROUGH - 1932-2017



Margaret came to Ashley Green in August 1982 when we moved into "Wyndrift" opposite the Old School. The School was still open and the shop was the general information centre of the village. It was not long before Margaret became involved in village life. She joined the WI and was a regular churchgoer, helping with the flowers at Christmas, Easter and the Harvest Festival.

She was a Justice of the Peace at Uxbridge where she attended two or three times a month and was on the family panel, and as a JP was happy to sign gun licence applications and witness signatures that had to be witnessed officially.

She started a weekly lunch club, which was well attended and she was helped by other villagers and she used to be the first aid point for the village fair and helped with teas there and she also helped on the community association - often with the catering. She loved giving parties and many people will remember "The Shed" full of our friends who she fed and "watered" with great enthusiasm.

For over ten years she was an active member of the SSAFA (soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's forces Help Society), assisting many ex-servicemen to get mobile scooters and stairlifts and she really enjoyed that. As if she did not have enough to do she also became involved with the RNLI, organising house to house collections and eventually became Chairman of the Berkhamsted branch.

She had trained as a nurse at St. Mary's, Paddington where she became a Junior Sister in the private Lindo wing. Her happiness and kindness helped many there. Finally she was a Freeman of the City of London - something she was very proud of, but seldom mentioned.

Her last years were very sad, sometimes recognising her friends and sometimes not. Mercifully she died in her sleep in the early hours of June 9<sup>th</sup>, ending 63 years of love and great friendships.

I think she would have loved her "Last Party" as many old friends - some not seen for over 25 years - came to give her a fitting farewell.

*Courtney Edenborough*

## MANNING'S



G & M B Manning Ltd, the fencing supply company and timber yard along Hog Lane, was set up in 1968 by George and Marion Manning.

It has been run by their daughter, Christine (Chris) for over thirty years, but this year she sold the business to one of her long standing suppliers, Walford Timber Ltd from Ross-on-Wye, a long established and well respected family business.

Chris says *"The company will operate on the same site with its existing staff so you will notice very little difference. This has enabled me to move on after 33 happy years at G & M B Manning Ltd safe in the knowledge that Mannings will continue as usual."*

Here we see her in the office with George Smith, the new owner.



All villagers will surely want to say "Thanks for the service and enjoy your retirement".

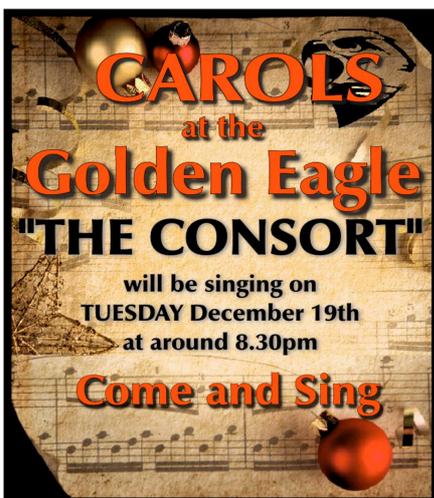
## MARGARET BOWLLER

Born and bred in Chesham, Margaret came to the village in 1964 with her family and joined the steering committee when the Community Association was set up. She was one of the founding members, of the Art Group - the first activity to be under the wing of the Association - along with Marion John and others, Since then she has organised a most successful group of talented, local, artists who meet every Monday in the Old School.

The group have staged exhibitions in the village and always show their work at the annual village fair and at the cream teas which the church run over the summer.

With her husband, Colin, she moved to Dudswell by the Grand Union Canal, but stayed involved with the village life.

Margaret has decided, reluctantly, that she needs to move to be near her family but we shall miss her organisational abilities good humour, and her smile. We all wish her well as she leaves us and hope she will stay in touch with her old friends here.



We welcome **Gary King** and **Adrian Searing** as the new managers at the Golden Eagle. Taking over from Helen they pledge to keep the pub for the community and to provide good food, good beers and wines and a place for all to come.

They already manage "The Village Gate" in Wendover which is very popular and always buzzing with diners and so they have all the experience necessary for running a successful pub.

In order to provide a full meals service every day a fairly large programme of refurbishment is planned to update the kitchen facilities. While this gets under way a full lunch menu will be available every day and the numbers in the pub at lunchtime show these to be very popular. Watch out for the Sunday roasts as well. These are also very popular and so booking is recommended.

The "Festive Evening Meal" will be available all the time up to Christmas and on to the end of January for bookings only, but a full evening menu will **not** start up again after until all the works are finished and the kitchens brought up to scratch.

As they get their feet under the table the Golden Eagle will become a real focus for the village community and so we wish our new managers every success as they work hard to keep our pub up and running. When the work is finished and things are running as normal, Gary and Adrian plan install a live-in Landlady and Landlord.



*Adrian and Gary at the bar with new beers on tap.*

Details of opening hours over the Festive Season and New Year, as well as Menus and upcoming Events, will be published in the Village Bulletins as that information become available.

*(If you don't receive the Village Bulletins, send an Email to [davedharmer@aol.com](mailto:davedharmer@aol.com). There is no charge for this service.)*

## CANCER RESEARCH GARDEN PARTY 2017

I was standing in our pottery/art studio one day last winter and an idea began to form in my head. I wonder if Jackie, the Manageress of the Cancer Research Shop in Berkhamsted, where I volunteer, would entertain the idea of having a garden party at our place. So the next time I was in the shop I asked her, and she very keen.

So we started producing lists, trying to be as organised as possible so that we could make the day go smoothly. People were asked to make cakes, or spend some time helping on the day; donating books, plants etc

A garden party needs tables and chairs, so I asked Mary Axon if she knew anyone from whom we could borrow tables and chairs. She suggested the Ashley Green Community Association and Cath the lady who looks after the Village Hall, kindly said that we could borrow them plus the urn and Dave, the driver from Cancer Research went to collect them.

Margaret Flowers from Tunfield nursery very kindly lent us a marquee which we erected about 3 weeks before the garden party. After that we had hail, winds and lashings of rain, and we had to bail out the marquee practically every morning and strap down the poles as they kept moving. I had visions that marquee might take off and land upside down in a neighbours field somewhere.

The weather had not been at all good and on the Saturday, the day before the party, the weather was awful but when we woke up on Sunday the weather was perfect. It was a miracle really - it couldn't have been better, not too hot, not too cold.

So 12 noon arrived and so did the people of Ashley Green and surrounding areas – the volunteers from the Cancer Research shop were fantastic, everyone pulled together and the whole day went very smoothly.

We took over £900 and a huge thank you to all those lovely people who donated those delicious home-made cakes and to everyone who came along and supported a fantastic cause.

*Val Zec*

### TRAVELLERS IN THE VILLAGE

A group of Travellers descended on Ashley Green in mid August this year and made a forced entry to the field behind the Golden Eagle, manhandling Helen - our landlady at the pub who tried to stop them - and pushing her into the hedge.

The Police were called but the Travellers stayed there for a few days. Their presence was unpleasant for all the village and surrounding areas and Hilary, our vicar, arranged for Security overnight to protect Helen and other residents. The owner of the land was contacted and an eviction order sorted and these people were finally moved on a few day later.

They left a huge pile of rubbish (mainly building waste) - which effectively blocked the footpath at the top of the field.

A group of villagers began the clearance on Saturday with about 5 car loads going to the dump. However, it became obvious that it would take many more trips to clear it and it was agreed to order a skip.



*Some of the helpers*



Rob Youngs arranged with his neighbour, Frank Harris, to collect the remaining rubbish in a low loader truck on the Sunday and transfer it to a skip in Frank's yard.

The Community Association paid for the security and skip. Rob did find an address in the builder's waste and submitted an online fly tipping complaint to Bucks Council, but nothing further was heard.

Well done and thanks to everyone who helped in this community effort, pulling together. As the Travellers left it is said that their parting words were "See you next year!"

Let's hope not!

### THE ASHLEY GREEN 1940 FILM

We were recently contacted by the Rushden, Northants, U3A group asking for information about the Ashley Green film shot in 1940. They were investigating films from the second world war which showed how village life was continuing despite the war and they found our film and were going to use it in one of their lectures.

They just got back to me. They had 70 people attend the lecture and wrote:- *"The ladies particularly loved the Village School. Not many where of an age to know much about evacuees but several ladies shared their wartime memories. They loved Mrs James and were impressed with the behaviour and enthusiasm of her pupils. The were also fascinated to see the couple strolling across the green near the end - none other than Sir Peter Scott and his wife Elizabeth Jane Howard, the author."*

The group have also read all the copies of "Community Call" on our Website, extracting the many bits of history in them and putting together a Seven Page information sheet about our village for their history group members.

*(I am sure you will have seen the films but if not, go to our website ([www.ashleygreen.org.uk](http://www.ashleygreen.org.uk)) and click on "In the News" on the left hand menu. You will then see what is on offer.)*

*David Harmer*

## BROWN NOT GREEN

More than 250 people turned out to go to a public meeting on October 14th where the outline proposal to build new homes on green belt land in Chesham was to be discussed. There were about 250 people at the packed meeting (so packed that many had to be turned away) which was chaired by Amersham & Chesham MP Cheryl Gillan.



Mrs Gillan allegedly declared her opposition to the proposals, which could see more than 50 hectares of land removed from Green Belt from land near Brushwood Junior School to make way for 900 new homes.

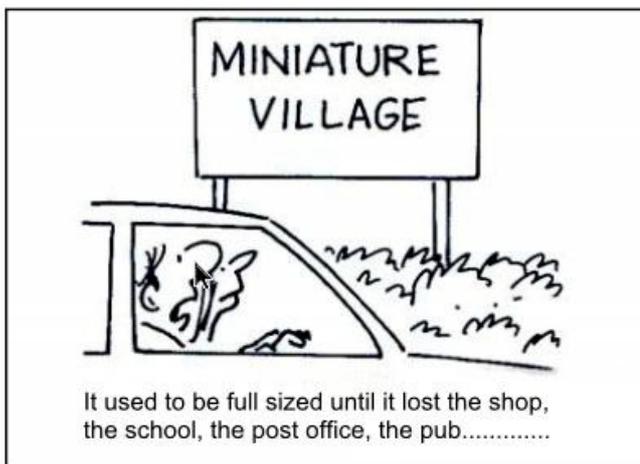
Speaking on behalf of the “**Brown Not Green**” Campaign - you may have seen their signs - Philip Plato said that the location for the new homes was “unsustainable” in planning terms, adding that if developed it would encourage more traffic, place great strain on the town’s infrastructure and would take away high quality agricultural land.

It was said Mrs Gillan “**emphatically denied**” that central government set housing targets or required councils to develop homes in the district, when asked by Mr Plato whether it was the government driving the Local Plan.

The report of the meeting in the Bucks Examiner leader of 19<sup>th</sup> October said that it was expected that the Council would decide whether or not to include this proposal in the next issues of the overall Local Plan on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

*(This extract taken from the Bucks Examiner)*

Watch this space!!



## Food for Thought?



## CLOCK SCHOOL ARTISTS' EXHIBITION.

The Clock School Artists held their second show in their new venue, the Old School in Ashley Green early in October, bringing both paintings and pottery along.

The show was well attended and received lots of complimentary comments. Most art shows these days struggle to sell well but this year sales were good and typical of recent years.



This was due in part to one buyer who bought five paintings from a single artist, Alan Eeles. She obviously liked his style!



The Old School is a very good venue for this type of event since facilities are excellent and the lighting, in particular a factor vital for an art show, ensures that all the work is well displayed.

We hope the residents of Ashley Green who attended the show enjoyed it and continue to support it in the future.

*Gareth Evans*

*Watch out for them next year!*



## HALLOWEEN IN ASHLEY GREEN



“A big highlight of the year for the younger residents of the village is entering into the spirit of the Halloween tradition, which they embrace wholeheartedly and thoroughly enjoy!

We counted at least six families all dressed up Trick or Treating, with a big effort having been put into their costumes. It was lovely to see some younger residents, obviously new to the village, also continuing the tradition.



We visited around sixteen homes and the generosity and spirit of Halloween by each resident was really impressive. We only called on those homes who had a carved pumpkin or Halloween items outside their homes thus ensuring we didn't disturb those who weren't so keen. I have to say the effort put into some of those pumpkin carvings and displays were very impressive!

*Here we see Emma Harris & Herbie Jackson in full scare mode*

Many thanks to those we visited.”  
*Submitted by Miranda Jackson*

## ASHLEY GREEN WI

Ashley Green WI is going strong with 30 members at present. We have a pub lunch every month, choosing a different pub each time as we are blessed with good eateries in this area.

We have good speakers at our meetings who entertain us with talks on many different subjects such as:- "Nurses never Run", the Caracol charity, "WRNS to Retirement" (Zena Skinner still full of beans in her 90's), the Mysterious disappearance of Glenn Miller, and "Making Crime Pay" by crime writer Dave Sivers, to mention just a few.

In addition, the Bucks Federation of the WI arranges shows, meetings, and talks throughout the year. Some of our ladies went to a very interesting Science and Discovery day, hearing three excellent speakers who gave us a lot to think about and a few weeks ago four of us went to High Wycombe Town Hall to hear John Benjamin from the Antiques Roadshow programme to talk about jewellery.

This year one of our members, Mary Langley, hosted a garden party in her garden on a glorious day in August and this gave us all an extra opportunity to chat to lots of different people over Prosecco and cake.



We only have seven members who actually come from Ashley Green, the others coming from Chesham and surrounding towns and villages, and we really would love to see some of our local ladies. Do give us a try!

### BOWLS CLUB UPDATE

Still Coming to Ashley Green.  
Aim is to have club built by  
**APRIL 2018**



**Watch this space**

## BONFIRE NIGHT

On a grey and rainy day, the day before the Ashley Green Bonfire event, six villagers turned up to build the bonfire from the huge heap of timber left by the gate to the Glebe.



On the 5<sup>th</sup> itself, the stalls were set up and the safety fencing erected and we waited for the crowds to arrive - and arrive they did - in droves.



The weather turned out to be fine - crisp with clear skies and a bright moon - and people began to come early. It is estimated that over 1200 people came along in the end.

The fire was lit at 6pm. What a blaze! Then it was time for the fireworks. We were not disappointed. A great show and everyone said that our Bonfire night was one of the best - if not the best!



We ran out of mulled wine (gallons and gallons) - as well as sausages in rolls and sparklers and all before the firework display too.



It takes a lot of organisation and commitment to ensure things run smoothly and, above all, safely.



Everyone involved worked very hard and it was real Community effort, so thanks must be given to everyone on the "team" who contributed their time to make the event a real success this year.

**ADVERTS**

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

# "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



Have you tried our local farm shop??

## Johns Lane Farm FARM SHOP

WE SELL **CALOR** Gas

Farm Fresh **EGGS**

Seasonal **Vegetables**

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Fuel for open fires

Cakes & **Biscuits**

**Ice Cream**

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**HAY**

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**STRAW**

Apple Juice

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



### St. John's Church, Ashley Green Lecture Series 2017-2018

7.30pm in the church.  
(Doors open 7.00pm)

13th December 2017 Wild Finland

17th January 2018 Natural Namibia

21st February 2018 Hadrian's Wall

21st March A Butterfly Year

Suggested donation in aid of St. John's Church, Ashley Green  
£5 per person at the door. Drinks and Nibbles provided

ASHLEY GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# VALENTINE'S SUPPER & DANCE

Saturday February 10th 2018  
Watch for details



## J.R.H. Handyman

Garden Walls - Garden Work  
Patios - Fencing  
Brickwork - Repointing  
Outside Painting

Free Quotations  
John : 01442-865673  
07788-768313



### Track City

## PLAYTIME FOR "PRE-SCHOOLERS"

At this new Playtime session, children can pick an engine and make a train to push round a huge train track we have laid out in the Memorial Hall in Ashley Green.

Suitable for children 18 mths- 5yrs  
(younger siblings very welcome)

Weekly drop-in sessions :  
Fridays in Ashley Green  
10:15- 11.30am and 1.15-2.30pm

First child £5, Siblings £3,  
Non walkers free. No need to book!  
Free refreshments provided

## 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 accomodation 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](http://www.ashleygreen.org.uk/hall_slideshow.html)  
contact  
The Lettings Officer - (Email only)  
[lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk](mailto:lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk)

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

# PLAY Time

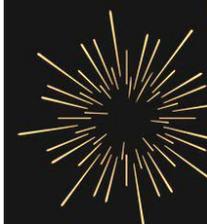
## Thursdays

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: Hilary - 07707-022922  
Anne - 07704-650166  
£2 a session

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## Firefly Displays

Professional firework displays set to  
bespoke music arrangements.

Gin Williams  
Event Organiser

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