

COMMUNITY CALL

HAPPY DAYS



On a rather damp Saturday in April we had the wedding of Kate Wilson to Paul Johnson here in Ashley Green.

Kate is the daughter of Hilary Wilson - our vicar - so it was great to have what we might say a very local event.

Kate is a member of a local Morris group and so she and her husband left the church to a guard of honour provided by the group with accompaniment from their musicians.



The reception was held in the Memorial Hall. What a pity it was a very damp day but that did not dampen the spirits on such a joyous day.

We wish Kate and Paul a long and happy life together.

NOT SO HAPPY DAYS - TRAFFIC ISSUES

In his report on page 2 the Chairman mentions, among other things, the issues of traffic along Hog Lane and Johns Lane.

Certainly since the creation of many houses in Berkhamsted at "Bearroc Park" along Shooters Way and the installation of traffic lights at the junction there, it seems that people feel they can best avoid the severe bottlenecks by shooting down Johns Lane and Hog Lane. This shortcut attracts heavy traffic at rush hour and at school run times.

Many large vehicles are driven at speed on a road which is not suitable for heavy traffic, with little consideration for other road users. The result has been that the road edges and verges have been severely cut up so that trying to squeeze past these vehicles - which hardly pull over at all - is to invite losing a tyre or wheel in the pits at the roadside and possibly receive a mouthful of abuse at the same time.

A sensible solution would be to review the way the traffic light junction might be improved or, more practically to create passing places along the lanes to make driving easier and safer and to lower the speed limit too.

A recent on-site meeting with a representative of BCC Highways and local concerned residents, clarified that no county funding was available to repair the verges. Therefore the protection and rebuilding of the verges and creation of passing places would have to be done by village residents. This would necessitate the formation of a group of villagers who would be prepared to carry out this work.

Is there anyone who would be willing to be involved in such a project?"

Comments and suggestions welcomed.

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COMMENT

We have seen many people leaving our village over the past few years and in the process we have lost people who have been involved in the community in so many ways. There are lots of new faces coming in but only a few come along to fill these gaps. Are they too busy or really do not care that they live in a thriving community?

Busy or not, we really do need new faces, with new ideas and new enthusiasm for where they live. Without such people 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? It doesn't take much time to make contribution.

Can you spare a little of yours?

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

What's On Summary

**CREAM TEAS
BARN DANCE**

(All details on back page)

Details of all events and activities, can always be found on the Ashley Green Website, and in the Notice Boards too.

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CHANGES ON THE COMMITTEE

The Community Association is run by an Executive Committee which is manned by volunteers from the village. They deal with the management of our halls, planning the work of maintenance and refurbishment to ensure they are always in good condition for the many organisations and functions which use them and also organising community events. Many of you will have been to the great Bonfire Night and the Annual Village Fair - just two of many.

This year we said "Goodbye" to both our Chairman (John Mayne) and our Secretary (Rob Youngs) after their stint of duty for the past three years. They have steered us through a fairly bumpy time of change dealing with contentious ownership claims by the District Council on the Old School and various long term plans for change which could affect us all here. I am sure they will now be able to relax!

They were given gifts of wine and beer and some gift tokens at the AGM to say thanks for all their hard work.

Paula Harris has stepped up to take the chair of the committee and we welcome her coming to assist and hope she can steer us for another successful tenure. She took over the task of co-ordinating last years successful Annual Village Fair and has done it again this year. We wish her Good Luck and we know you will support her.

We still do not have a Secretary to replace Rob.
Can you help?

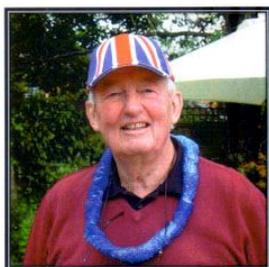
There are only eight meetings a year which need your attendance. Would you be able to do that?

If so please email davedharmer@aol.com

DEPARTURES

COLIN JOHN BOWLLER

6th April 1936 - 15th March 2018



Earlier this year we said "Goodbye" to Colin Bowller.

He was one of the villagers who helped start the Community Association, was the first chairman and was instrumental in getting the events programme underway.

A lot of people still have happy memories of the Music Hall he staged and the Quiz Evenings which he ran for about thirteen years. He and his family moved away some years ago, but only just a little way up to Dudswell, and his wife, Margaret, ran the Association Art group - since it began all those years ago - until just recently.

GRACE EVELYN WEST - 94 years

Grace was a true Ashley Green villager.

A lovely lady who, in the latter years, could often be seen trundling her trolley full of gardening tools across the green to the allotments behind the Memorial Hall.

She worked the allotment alone after her husband died, right up until just a few years ago, and she would often take some lunch and just sit there in the peace of the countryside.

FROM THE CHAIR

This is my last report as my three-year term as Chairman comes to an end. We have had another excellent year with successful events such as the Annual Fireworks and the Valentine's Dinner Dance earlier this year.

During my time as Chairman, building rentals, cleaning and maintenance have been put on a more professional footing. Income has risen, and Association finances remain sound. I am grateful to Mary Axon, Cath Hurling and Lesley Popescu for their efforts.

The issue of the District Council claiming ownership of the Old School - with the accompanying threat to the Association having to pay high rent for the building has receded for the present.

The Council have carried out, as promised, considerable external maintenance to the building in the last two years with the most recent works having been completed just a few months ago. I have requested that they try to complete the programme by painting the windows this year and I am grateful to councillor Mike Smith for his support in these matters.

We hope to carry out a complete redecoration of Village Hall this summer and, at the time of writing, a disabled toilet is being installed in the Old School.

A number of issues still concern the village, namely the threat of unsustainable potential housing development in the area, and the damage to our country lane verges by increasing traffic caused by the former. We continue to work with CDC and the Parish Council to monitor developments and make our views known to decision-makers.

I want to thank all the Council and Executive members and others who have supported me over the past three years. In particular, John Poston and Roger Watts on property matters.

I especially want to express my gratitude to Rob Youngs who has done sterling service as Secretary and who is stepping down this year.

I am also grateful to Rev. Hilary Wilson of St John's for her work at Ashley Green Good Neighbours group. The weekly Lunch and Chat sessions are very successful and do provide a service which is appreciated by all who attend.

However, the number of helpers at that event has dropped and we still urgently need more volunteers to step up and help us.

The call for helpers to keep the Community Association healthy is one which we regularly put out and so we hope some of you can step up to the mark and give just a little of your time.

We are fortunate that Paula Harris, who has organised the very successful Village Fairs of the past two years is now taking the chair. I wish her well and will continue to help in any way I can to maintain and improve life for villagers.

At the time of writing we still seek a Secretary. Is this for you?

John Mayne - Chairman 2018

VALENTINES DINNER AND DANCE

The Valentine's Dinner and Dance on 10th February was a great success. It was a sell out - 80 tickets sold.



The hall and tables were beautifully decorated, the bar was well stocked, and great food served.

The meal - Smoked salmon, beef casserole, all followed by a delicious chocolate pudding - was provided by Kristian who has provided food for several of our village do's.

All served by a great team of young men and women, family and friends who were called in to help. Many thanks!



This energised us for the remaining evening of dancing to "Masters of the Tuneiverse" led by Mary Axon's son Tom.



It was a great evening and our thanks must go to the team of volunteers from the Committee, Mary Axon, Ann Broschomb, Helen Woodley, Elizabeth Foster and Paulette Fidler who organised such a fun evening.

OLD SCHOOL WORKS

You will have seen in the Chairman's report that the District Council have been carrying out work at the Old School.

In the recent batch there were a total of 13 quite major pieces of work that needed attention. Eight of these were concerned with the roof, replacing and repointing many of the ridge tiles, replacing tiles generally and refelting a flat roof.

The other works were mainly to do with repointing sections of the walls and dealing with other various rendering jobs.

The scaffolding was erected and the work began.



After about a month the work was completed, and the scaffolding came down. We must thank the Council for honouring their agreement to maintain the outside of the building.

Now the Community Association is doing its bit and getting a disabled toilet installed as well as other works.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE

Following the work of refurbishing the kitchens and the bar areas the managers, Gary and Adrian announced a "Relaunch Party" in early March to mark the re-opening of our pub and to which everyone was invited!



Sadly it snowed that day (*see a family outside the pub that night*) and the musicians could not make it. The villagers who did venture out to join the party had a good evening.



Undaunted, the second "Relaunch Party" was set for the next week and that really was a great success.



This time we had music and food and the place was full and it looked as if the pub was truly "relaunched" and on its way.

Since then there have been a few staff changes in the kitchen, and that seems to have meant that some evenings when food has not been available. The Quiz night is back now though and so we look forward to seeing the future plans for our pub with anticipation.

Watch this space!

A PILOT RECALLS

villager and one time pilot recalls the De Havilland Comet



After four years flying the Vickers Vanguard, in 1966, I went on to fly the beautiful De Havilland Comet 4b which entered service with BEA in 1960. It was powered by four Rolls Royce Avon engines, had a max take off weight of 71.6 tons and carried 101 passengers.

After earlier Comet accidents, De Havilland put gauges on the engineer's panel to measure everything about the aircraft down to the temperature at different places on the wing spar. That panel had over nine hundred gauges and switches and all systems were operated manually.

The flight deck itself was very dark and the cockpit windows were very small. The Captain had to taxi the aircraft himself as he had control of the nose-wheel steering wheel.

The take-off always at full power was, after the Vanguard, a case of "hold on tight" as the acceleration to airborne was, on short sectors, about 20 seconds. Climbing at about 4,500 ft/min the pilot/engineer on the panel had to be quick to reach down, nearly at floor level, to work each engine pressurisation system lever smoothly to pressurise the aircraft. On final approach, he had to do the reverse to slowly depressurise the aircraft by touch down.

The power from the four engines was such that if an engine failed on take-off, the pilots would barely notice. On one occasion I was on the panel, taking off from Athens in the summer. I told the captain that an engine was failing due to low fuel pressure and he just turned to me and said, "you don't think we are going to stop." So we took off, taking just a few seconds longer, I carried out the shut down drill and we flew to London on schedule.

When flying to Athens, we often flew Olympic Airline's Comets as they were short of pilots and apart from the colour scheme the aircraft was identical. On flights to Moscow, we carried a Russian speaking radio operator as the Russian ATC only spoke Russian.

The flight deck was really cold as the nose wheel retracted just under the flight deck and only the passenger cabin was properly heated. So the two pilots always kept their feet up on the rudder pedals and the pilot on the panel had a small heated pad on the floor that helped a little. Some Captains kept the flight deck door open all flight.

As the co-pilots supervised the refuelling, when operating in Northern Europe in winter, where sometimes it was minus 30°C, we were issued with fur coats and boots. As for a bit of snow in those days we could - and did - land in quite deep snow and the aircraft would disappear in a blanket of blown snow when we put the reverse thrust on.

The Comet landed quite slowly and had huge flaps. At about 80ft the handling pilot called for "flaps 80" and another set of flaps, the width of the fuselage, came down 80 degrees and that made a cushioning effect for a smooth touchdown.

Tragedy

On 12th October 1967, a BEA Comet crashed into the sea on a flight from Athens to Cyprus. All aircraft were grounded immediately. All pilots were summoned to a meeting at BEA headquarters where it was speculated that it was caused by a jet upset (pilot error).

Within a day, the wreckage was found and two days later a seat cushion was found with traces of a military explosive. It had been a bomb. The aircraft returned to service but many senior pilots were apprehensive.

The Comet was truly a wonderful aircraft and a real joy and privilege to fly. **The worlds first jet airliner!**

By 1969 it was being replaced by more efficient jets and I moved on to pilot the BAC 111 - a challenging plane to fly.

Carr Withall

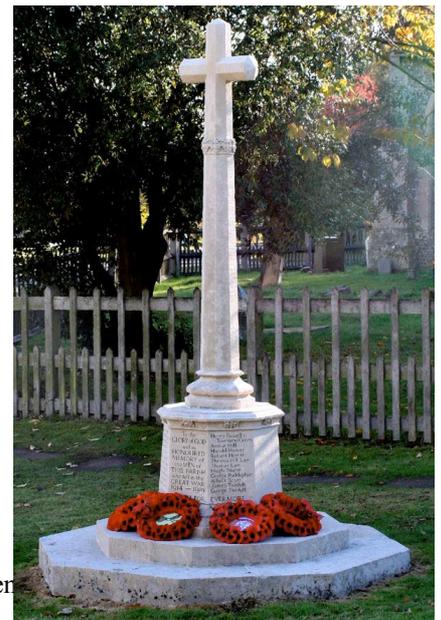
A CEREMONY TO MARK THE END OF FIRST WORLD WAR

There will be a ceremony to mark the end of the First World War on November 11th when individual plaques will be laid for each of men listed on the WWI Memorial. That will be at 10.30am. There will be a 2 minute silence and then the laying of wreaths/plaques at 11.00 am.

The Vicar - Hilary Wilson - would like to be able to invite descendants/relatives of those whose names appear on the WW1 memorial to that special service on 11th November.

The names are:-

Pte Colin Busby
Pte Frederick Chapman
Pte Frederick Clark
Pte Frank Dell
Pte James Dell
Pte Henry Dwight
Pte Frederick Foskett
Pte Frederick Gomm
Pte Thomas Gomm
Pte John Grimsdell
Pte Albert Gurney
Pte. Harold Hewitt
Pte. Robert Hewitt
Pte. Arthur Hill
Pte. Thomas Law
Pte. Thomas H F Law
Pte. Hugh Nunn
Sgt. George Puddephatt
Cpl. Albert Scott
Cpt. H R Townsend-Green
Stoker. George Twidell
Pte. James Twidell



Are you related to any of these men?

If so, please get in touch with Hilary Wilson at
hilaryaw@hilaryaw.plus.com

ART GROUP EXHIBITION.

The Ashley Green Art Group was one of the first groups to be established when the Community Association was set up.

It has been running since the 1980s and is still very healthy and still attracting new members.



This year they staged an exhibition on the Old School in April where many works were on display.



There was a steady stream of people who came to see the work - maybe not as many as might have been expected though - but all were delighted by the high standard on display/



The group donated half of the proceeds from the sale of paintings to the Hospice of St Francis and a cheque for £552 was handed over to the Hospice team earlier this month.



New members are most welcome. Why not come along and meet this friendly group?

Email Gerry at:- geraldhunting1@gmail.com

THE PARTY

On the day of the Annual Christmas Community Party in 2017, it snowed and the party was called off.

Not wishing to waste the opportunity for a get together it was decided to have a "**WELCOME THE NEW YEAR**" party instead and so it was to be on Sunday January 7th.

Everyone in the village was welcome. Entry for Association members is always free and there was only a small charge for non-members. On the day a team got all the food and drink laid out ready and one by one the partygoers arrived.

Numbers were down a bit - maybe because many people were all "partied out" - but that meant more food and wine for everyone else.



Despite the lower turnout a good time was had by all.



Thanks must be given to the organisers and indeed to everyone who came to this community event.

Let's hope the weather is better next time.



Maybe Father Christmas will visit the next time??

Roll up, Roll up!! So here we are again
THE ANNUAL VILLAGE FAIR

This event, like our splendid Bonfire Night, is one of the two major events that attracts so many people from miles around to our village and who come to enjoy a traditional village fair.

The day started a bit cloudy but as the volunteers arrived to set up the stalls and the sideshows, the clouds slowly moved away and by 1.00 the weather was great and people poured in.



Parking has always been a problem at this popular event and the two fields we used to use were not available this year. However we "colonised" the large grass area between the school and the main road and soon had that filled. Our thanks to John Mayne who kept a lonely vigil as car park monitor for the whole day!



The agility dog show was a great attraction, but to see the pet dogs trying to go round the course in the same way was quite a hoot! Many owners had to lead by example and go through the tunnels first.

The Pimms stall did well - as usual - as did the bar where, although trade was a little lower than last year, takings were up thanks to the generous sponsorship from the:- **Whites, Warrens, Broschombs, and Harrises**. Many thanks.



The team of ladies from the WI manned the tea and cakes counter inside the hall, dispensing lots of lovely home made cakes throughout the afternoon. They were rushed off their feet and smiled all the time.



Thanks ladies. Great job.

The Classic Car display, as usual, attracted a large fleet of cars and a lot of admirers too. As we have said before - Malcolm Rimington really knows how to bring 'em in!



The Coconut shy attracted young and old alike, and many people were seen clutching their coconuts.

Then we had the tug-o-war. The girls won 2 to 1, but it is rumoured that some parents went to help at the girls end to lend a helping hand., and so as not to be noticed and
(they were noticed)!!



This year the "Choir on the Green" our very own Community Choir" were able to turn up and give us almost half an hour of music.

Their leader, Paul, has really whipped them into shape and their final number - the classic "Lean On Me" got everyone rocking along.



When the fair was over and the clearing up done, tables were set out on the Green by the Hall and the helpers sat down to a well deserved "after fair" meal delivered from a local Indian Restaurant. It remained warm and sunny right up to the time the sun began to set and so things were packed up and we all went home after a terrific day.



We must say well done and thanks to Paula Harris who took over as the organiser for the second year running. She was backed up by a great team of volunteers who seem to just get on with it each year without barely a hitch, so this was another very successful event

Roll on 2019!

"ASHLEY GREEN ADVICE CENTRE"

with
County Councillor **Mark Shaw**.

Mark will be coming to Ashley Green to run an Advice Centre - basically making himself available as a County Councillor to answer any queries you may have about issues that the County Council could be addressing.

He has already run one session where some social issues were raised by some villagers, and will be returning for three more of these "Ashley Green Advice Centre" sessions this year,

Are you concerned about roads, traffic, housing and other developments. Some social issues maybe? All these can be up for discussion.

The dates he will be here are below:-

Friday 10th August	2pm to 3pm
Saturday 6th October	10am to 11am
Friday 7th December	2pm to 3pm

He suggests that, if people can't make these times, then if they have a pressing issue they can Email, or contact him directly using his mobile number.

Mobile 07951744656 Email. markshaw@buckscc.gov.uk

We welcome this initiative which offers us all the opportunity to discuss things face to face with a member of the Council.

A WONDERFUL SPRING

The weather recently has brought out all the trees and shrubs in an abundance of blossom. I am sure you will have seen all the wonderful colours and displays up here and in the countryside around us.

Here is just one picture.

This is the Laburnum Tree next to the church in full bloom.



This tree was planted by the then vicar at the end of the Second World War to commemorate his son, a pilot, who lost his life in the conflict. He could see this in bloom every year from the vicarage just across the green.

BE ALERT - THERE'S A BURGLAR ABOUT



Disturbingly we seem to have had a number of break-ins up here in Ashley Green in the last year or so, and some strange characters - and cars - seen wandering about.

The latest was on **June 13th** when a villager returned home in Hog Lane to find the house ransacked. They had entered through a back gate and then forced a window.

Many villagers have already installed security lights and cameras. One villager has advised that they have just installed security cameras for their home, courtesy of the **Owl** protect scheme, which offers significant discounts **and** which are endorsed by the neighbourhood watch scheme.

If interested, these can be accessed by going to this site <http://owlprotect.uk/index.php/cctv-offers>. It is said that these are very easy to set up without professional installation.

Do take steps to secure your home. Lock doors and windows, especially if you go out, and stay alert to anything you think unusual near you - people, cars - and contact the police with details of you are concerned.

ASHLEY GREEN GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP

The 6th Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 14th June in The Old School, during dessert which we thought was a very civilised way of conducting business!

The group now comprises three elements

- 1. The Lunch and a Chat Group** which is held every Thursday in The Old School and is open to all living in our Parish and friends
- 2. The Pub Lunch** in The Golden Eagle which is held on the third Tuesday of the month.
- 3. PlayTime** is for our pre-school villagers and their Carers which is runs term time on Thursday mornings with occasional outings.

All three groups are very successful and well attended and we hope that each of them reach out to, and cater for, all in our community.

The Community Association is a major supporter of Group and provided all of the funding last year in addition to free use of The Old School and grateful thanks must also go to The Golden Eagle for their subsidised lunches under the new managers.

A shortage of new volunteers continues to be a concern. PlayTime is run by just two people each week, (down from four when it started) one of whom is Hilary our Vicar who has many demands on her time and the Lunch Club has a pool of eight ladies who rotate every four weeks. As a result we have had to reduce the Thursday lunches to term time only because we do not have enough volunteers to cover holidays and absences.

If you have any spare time and would like to help out with either the lunches or with the children, please do get in touch. It is great fun and you will be made most welcome by everybody and will definitely make some new friends.

Jacquie Rose

Have you tried our local farm shop??

Johns Lane Farm FARM SHOP



WE SELL
CALOR Gas



Farm Fresh
EGGS



Seasonal
Vegetables



POTATOES



Traditional
House Coal



Cakes &
Biscuits



Ice Cream



Jams, Honey
& Preserves



LOGS



Milk



HAY



Bird Seed



MANURE



STRAW



Apple Juice

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Halls to Hire

in Ashley Green

Excellent facilities in convenient location.

Suitable for:-
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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

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 - 07707-02292
Anne - 07704-650166
£2 a session



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

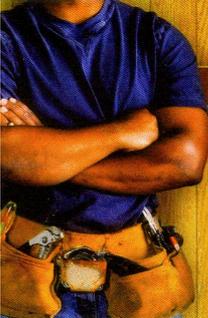
First child £5, Siblings £3,
Non walkers free. No need to book!
Free refreshments provided

CREAM TEAS

IN ST. JOHN'S

EVERY SUNDAY
IN JULY AND AUGUST
AND
FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

2.30-5.00PM

J.R.H.

Handyman

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

Free Quotations
John : 01442-865673
07788-768313

REFLEXOLOGY

Wendy Waterman

ITEC-Dip in Reflexology L3 ITEC -Anatomy & Physiology L3



Wendy is a member of the AOR (Association of Reflexologists)

She is fully insured and offers both mobile and treatment room service in the daytime or evenings

Please call to arrange a convenient time for an appointment

Make time for yourself, invest in your health
For appointments please call Wendy Waterman
on 07786 411418 or email: wend.w@sky.com

SOLE to SOUL
reflexology by wendy waterman

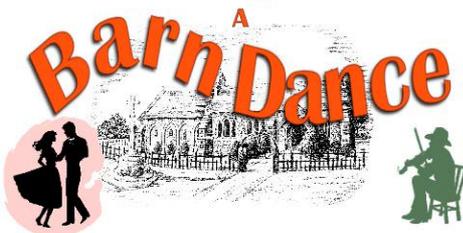
St. John the Evangelist Presents

Barn Dance

Saturday September 8th, 2018
The Ashley Green Village Hall
at 7.30pm.

Bar Live band

Watch out for more details



UPHOLSTERY CLASSES



Want to try upholstery?
Join my local, friendly, class and learn how to.

CONTACT
Chris Chambers
01442 872302 (evenings)
or email cvc37@tiscali.co.uk

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