

# COMMUNITY CALL

## BONFIRE NIGHT IN ASHLEY GREEN 2019

On a wet and windy November 5<sup>th</sup> we staged our popular **BONFIRE NIGHT** .



A team of villagers turned out to build the fire on the preceding weekend using the timber donated by Mannings Woodyard and others and completed the task in just about an hour. Well done!



The safety barriers were set up and stalls were brought in on the day itself. There were stalls for Mulled Wine, Sausages in rolls Tea and Coffee, etc and sparklers and glow sticks too.

*Mulled wine was very popular*

The fire was lit at 6.00pm. The rain had dwindled by then and people began to arrive in droves, all anxious to get near the fire ready to see the display as well as buy a drink and something to eat.

Parking, as usual, was a bit of a nightmare, but some villagers offered their drives. There were **three** mini-buses which had brought people from the epilepsy centre in the Chalfonts. These were parked in drives close by the Memorial Hall so that the staff could more easily get the wheelchairs on to the Glebe.

It was still windy and a team of marshals were kept busy making sure that people did not walk into the path of the sparks from the fire, but people were sensible and the St Johns Ambulance team were not needed.



It was another great evening with an estimated attendance of over 1500 people. As well as the group from the Chalfonts, people had come from as far away as Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville - attracted by the notices on our website.

Everyone who helped make this a very special evening is to be congratulated. Roll on 2020.

### Contents

- Page 1 - Bonfire Night,
- Page 2 - Burns Night and Victor and Albert
- Page 3 - Halloween, Rounders, Art exhibition, Obituary
- Page 4 - Ploughing Match, Art Fair, Cream teas.
- Page 5 - Playground, Lights Out,
- Page 6 - Christmas in Ashley Green
- Page 7 - From the Chair, Filming in the village
- Page 8 - Projector, Ads, Events.

### Editors Comment

The Community Association newsletter, "Community Call" comes out just twice a year. This year we have delayed issue to be able to include a piece about the Burns Night supper and dance held in mid January.

You can see that this issue contains many articles and photos that capture the true community spirit and shows how so many people enjoy what goes on here.

As mentioned in previous issues we welcome everyone, especially those who are relatively new to the village to participate. Many really do have very busy lives with children and work commitments, but we would love to see you come along to these events and activities.

We do need new ideas and new enthusiasm too, so can you spare a little time to get a bit more involved with your community?

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

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
ART GROUP**

**EXHIBITION**

**IN THE OLD SCHOOL  
ASHLEY GREEN**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
10.00am - 5.00pm**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Watch for more details later**

## A TASTE OF BURNS

After a gap of five years, January 18<sup>th</sup> saw the return to Ashley Green of the celebration of **Burns Night** with a Supper and Dance.

Guests poured in to the Memorial Hall, to the accompaniment of a piper playing outside in the freezing cold and inside they could see the beautifully decorated hall and partake of their first whisky shot to get things going.



The formal part of the night commenced with the Haggis piped into and around the hall before coming to rest on a table in the middle. The guests gathered round as a fearsome kilted Scot raged with the Ode to the Haggis and, after the Haggis had been well and truly eviscerated, the guests returned to their seats to receive the Selkirk Grace from yet another kilted man.



A delicious Venison stew was served with Neaps and Tatties and Haggis, “warm and reeking” followed by Cranachan. All this with the inevitable whisky shots and/or wines and beers from the bar.

After all the revellers had had their fill of food and wine came the serious business of the Toasts. First to Robbie Burns and then the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply.

Before the dancing began it was announced that the bar was very short of coins for change, and so an impromptu coin rolling event was started. People rolled pound coins to see who could get closest to a bottle of one of the whiskies as a prize. The coffers were very quickly filled. After that it was time to push back the tables and let the festivities begin.



A great band - the Chameleons - then swung in to action with their caller directing people through a number of dances.



To give pause for breath, the raffle of wines, spirits, flowers, candles and other glorious items gave excitement to all and prizes to the lucky few.

Thanks must be given to the organisers - Jan Barbour and Shelagh Watts - and their band of helpers. We must also thank the young men behind the bar and the young waitresses who kept the food coming.

The hall was full to capacity and it was a really special night.

## VICTOR AND ALBERT

On November 9<sup>th</sup> we welcomed **Victor and Albert**, who staged their show entitled “A Variety Nightmare”.



They came five years ago and were so entertaining that we invited them back again and it was an evening of real variety.

They gave us music and song, comedy, a little magic, even an escapologist who got out of a strait jacket and, of course, some audience participation and so a real mix - a “Nightmare” - of entertainment as promised.

*Here villagers act out “Peter Pan!” (Captain Hook on the left!) and then villagers get Victor into the strait jacket which he then slipped out of.*



In the interval the capacity audience were offered trays of fine finger food - sandwiches, quiche and nibbles - from M&S and arranged by a villager who works there.

A thoroughly good evening.

## GHOULS AND WITCHES IN ASHLEY GREEN

No, not the villagers but Halloween 2019!

This year the evening was dry and as dusk set in the intrepid families - Mums and Dads and lots of children - went out to do "Trick or Treat" in the village.



There were quite a few families out and about = some children made up and in fancy dress as witches and ghouls.

One family even came out from Chesham to see what treats were available up here!

In all about Thirty Houses put out sweets and goodies with most using a pumpkin to advertise that they were "Open for Business".

*Photo courtesy of Paula Harris*

## ROUNDERS AND PICNIC ON THE GLEBE

In Early September a "Rounders and Picnic" event was organised on the Glebe for families and children by Sophia Munro, assisted by other families.

The last time such an event was staged was in 2008 - Yes, eleven years ago.



The weather was bright sunny - the few clouds in the sky not enough to dampen things and it was nice and warm for the games and picnics which followed.

Eight families came along and it was such a good way for young families, some new to the village, to get to know each other and for the children to meet new chums.

The Rounders games were between Adults and Children.

Paula Harris acted as umpire - very strict - but at the end of it all it looked as if the children won.



A good event for families - especially those with younger children so lets hope we can have more of the same in the future.

## CHILTERN PAINTERS

The Chiltern Painters group, which has 13 exhibiting members, is now in it's 50th year.

They held their Art Exhibition over the weekend of 5th/6th October 2019 in the Old School Hall at Ashley Green. They have traditionally held their exhibitions at Old Amersham but this year they felt that the advantage that the Ashley Green venue offered was a splendid hall, on site parking, no stairs and a good modern kitchen as well as very competitive hire costs.



There were paintings, collage, sculpture and pottery plus a large range of greetings cards.

BBC Three Counties Radio broadcast an

interview with one of our members at the exhibition and Hertfordshire Life magazine also ran an article on the show.

The group very much enjoyed a successful exhibition there and hopes to hold it's next exhibition at the Old School Hall in the

## PAT INGRAM

Pat Ingram passed away on December 7<sup>th</sup> aged 92.



She had lived in one of the Post Office cottages, opposite the Old School, for well over 30 years after coming from Wigginton.

In the final years of the war she joined the Wrens. She did not talk much about what she did in the war other than it involved flying to and from military bases in the south of England.

It was during these activities, that she met her husband Brian who was a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm.

She became burser's secretary at the Ashlyns school and previously she had been an administrator at the Royal Veterinary College's large animal centre at North Mimms.

In retirement she indulged her passion for crafts and making dolls houses. She continued to drive her special edition Racing Green mini-cooper, that used to buzz round the area, until her 90<sup>th</sup> year. In recent years she had become a keen and valued member of the Lunch and Chat Club and had developed friendships with many villagers.

A Celebration of her life was held on January 16<sup>th</sup> in the Old School and family and friends - local and from far away - came to pay tribute to Pat.

A bight and gentle lady with a good sense of humour who will be sadly missed.

## THE PLOUGHING MATCH

In early October there was news of a Ploughing Match to be held locally. It was organised by the **R.S.B.A.A.** - the **Royal South Bucks Agricultural Association** - the "Royal" title bestowed because the cup was given by George V.



It is an annual event which moves around the county each year and this year it was held at Torrington Farm - just along Grove Lane, towards Whelpley Hill - owned by the Mash family and run by Harvey Mash.

*(You may recall that we ran an article about the Mash Family and their on-going commitment to farming in our area in the last issue and this is another chapter)*



On a really beautiful sunny morning about Twenty Eight contestants lined and began to plough.

There were modern "Juggernauts" with huge ploughs and many smaller tractors of all ages with one real antique chugging up and down the field.

There was just one horse drawn plough too, pulled by a very handsome pair. Great to see them still working in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



A real mix - everyone being meticulous about getting the straightest furrows.

The winner came from near Denham. However, the cup for the Best Managed Farm went to Torrington Farm. Well done!



Villagers went up to see the teams at work and watch this traditional skill - a long way from the "heads down" activity of looking at Smartphones that we have today!

This little boy thought the horses were lovely.



## CHRISTMAS ART FAIR IN AID OF CANCER RELIEF

In early November Phillip and Val Zec staged an Art Fair with 10% of the proceeds going towards Cancer Relief.

This was a repeat of the show last year at their house along Hog Lane where there was Ceramic work (Val), Art (Phillip) and Greeting cards for sale.

There was really good and diverse display - something for all tastes - with eye-catching cards for Christmas and all occasions too!

There were a lot of visitors who came to enjoy the show and then have tea and cakes before setting off home.



Here are Phillip and Val with their work!

## CREAM TEAS IN ST. JOHN'S

This year the team at St. John's laid on the usual round of Cream Teas during the summer, continuing the tradition that has been going on for many years running from July to September.



Here we see some of the people at the last Cream Tea of the season, enjoying their scones, cream and jam - and tea, of course - with our vicar, Chris, at the back right, with his family.

*(Is it Cream then Jam on the Scones, or the other way round? Who knows? Who cares? Just enjoy!)*

See you again next year!

## ASHLEY GREEN OUTDOOR WELLBEING FACILITY

The Ashley Green Village playground was built in 2004 by villager Alby Russell of Heritage Landscapes and donated to the village. So many children have used it over the years but recently it has been looking a bit run down and in need of investment.

When the storeroom was built some years later onto the back of the Village Hall, external double doors were incorporated with a vision of one day providing an external terrace and somehow linking the hall to the playground and The Glebe.

In June last year, Chiltern District Council invited applications from Town and Parish Councils to apply for grant funding for local community projects. For a project to receive grant funding, it had to meet certain criteria and our Parish Council decided to try to secure some grant funds for a Parish project.

Other villages, notably Wigginton have recently achieved good things with community funding and local effort.

Our Parish Council decided to submit a robust and detailed application for a new outdoor wellbeing facility to benefit the whole community, and so we applied for the maximum available sum of £40,000, being 50% of the total project cost.

In the Statement of Needs forming the introduction to the grant application, it stated that “Currently residents and visitors have access to only very limited recreational facilities within Ashley Green. The local Community Association runs and maintains the Old School Hall and the Village Hall (Memorial Hall). The Parish Council maintains a small, fatigued playground, which is primarily suitable for under 5s.

These facilities have historically operated independently of each other. The Parish Council and Community Association now have a vision to work together to enlarge and drastically improve the current children’s play area, whilst also linking the facility to the Village Hall. The idea is to redevelop the area of the existing playground and surrounds of the Village Hall into a much more integrated community space. The new scheme includes a larger children’s play area suitable to a wider range of ages up to 12 years. It also includes an adult exercise area for use by all, but intended in particular to assist the ageing and elderly population of the Parish to stay active.”

We submitted our application in early August and in late October we received notification that we were to receive £32,000 grant towards our project. This was the highest award to any applicant and was and still is fantastic news for villagers and visitors too. At this point, I would like to thank the Clerk to the Parish Council, Nicky Buckle for all the work she did in compiling the grant application.

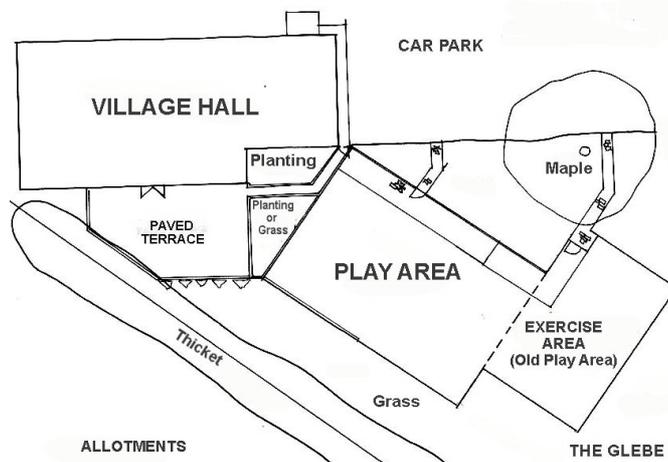
The plans below show the vision for the new outdoor Wellbeing Facility, although the proposed design is only preliminary at this stage.

Great news it is, but the work to bring the project to reality starts shortly. To do this, volunteers are needed for a Village Project Committee, comprising as I see it, up to 8 people of diverse backgrounds, ages and interests, but most importantly having a passion to see the project through to a successful fruition.

We are obliged to spend the grant funding as part of the project funding within the determined period, and our project programme submitted with the

Application showed a completion date of May 2021. So, I would like to ask anyone who has an interest in joining this Village Project Committee to drop me a line at [m.broschomb@btinternet.com](mailto:m.broschomb@btinternet.com) or give me a call on 07747014701 before Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

*Mark Broschomb (Parish Council)*



*This is how it will look*

### VILLAGE PROJECT COMMITTEE

As stated above, this is to be a true Community initiative. Not only will it involve the Parish Council and the Community Association working together but we want people from the village to join and give their support and experience and make this a true Community Project.

Your help will be gratefully accepted so please contact Mark (*details above*) to show your interest

### LIGHTS OUT

Back in early December there was a sudden power failure along the Chesham Road at about 6.00 pm. A call to the power supplier got a swift response and engineers came out quite quickly, but it took six hours - with candles lit and huddled over a “coal effect” gas fire - before the lights came back.



Two days later the power went off again and then several days later another section of the road went out.

We still have no idea what happened but shortly after the last episode a team arrived and spent some days apparently replacing cables. The power people were very good at sending regular updates of progress by text, but it is not until your power has gone on a chilly winter night that you realise how much you depend on having a regular supply of electricity.

All was OK until early January when the power went out **again** for a couple of hours. Fingers crossed that was the last time.

## CHRISTMAS IN ASHLEY GREEN 2019

### YO HO HO!!



The festive season started when the Rotary Club of Chesham brought Father Christmas back again to Ashley Green on December 7th. The sound of Christmas Music was heard by the villagers who turned out to meet him and the team of helpers (his elves!) supporting the entourage.

### THE ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Community Association Annual Christmas Family Party followed on the next day. It was a responding success with a really large turn out of villagers with many new faces to the village coming along as well. Good to see you all.



There was a record number of children who came along to meet Father Christmas and then partake in the "Silent disco" - a favourite with all the young ones.

The table groaned with the weight of the food provided under the supervision of Elizabeth Foster and folk really enjoyed the mulled wine provided to go with that.

After eating, the assembly were led in to singing Carols conducted by John Poston with Sylvia Howe providing the accompaniment as usual.



The Hall was bright and cheerful with a lovely tree and lights and everyone had a good time - a real community event and thanks must be given to everyone who helped to make it such a success.

## CAROLS IN ST. JOHN'S

The annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols in St. John's, conducted by our vicar Chris was next on the agenda on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

The church was full with villagers coming to enjoy this traditional event and the singing was led by a choir of sixteen singers assembled from villagers and others, all led by David Harmer.

### CAROLS IN THE GOLDEN EAGLE

Later in the week the "Consort" came up to the Golden Eagle to lead a Carol evening in the "Golden Eagle". Here you see them in their festive gear.



This has been a popular event for the past six years and this year was no exception. The pub was full and the pub goers in good voice as they joined in with gusto. A collection for the Hospice of St Francis raised over £100 - so thanks to all.

Another good community evening all round!

### GOOD NEIGHBOURS CHRISTMAS

Next was the Christmas Lunch party for the Good Neighbours "Lunch and Chat" group.

The tables were beautifully decorated and the lunch was a Smoked Salmon starter. Full turkey roast for mains and Christmas Pud or Trifle for sweet - all accompanied by a selection of wines or soft drinks. There were Christmas crackers and Santa too (*our district councillor, Mark Shaw*) who dispensed some presents to all.

There were about thirty people present this year and all were full of praise.

Special thanks must be given to the wonderful team of helpers who prepared the food, decorated the tables and generally made this a true "Good Neighbours" event.



## FROM THE CHAIR

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year on behalf of myself and the Community Association.

We are all aware of the ever-increasing requirement for housing development throughout the country. Whilst we may not all welcome change, we do accept that change is inevitable. What we must look to ensure is that change is in keeping with the local village/environment where infrastructure and services can either support the development or be simultaneously installed.

Occasionally a proposal comes along that does not fit this profile, and where villagers' ways of life will be severely detrimentally affected.

One such proposal was to convert Thorne Barton Hall to a private members' club submitted in summer 2018. It was very clear from looking at the proposal that the application was a cover story for a much larger events development, with all the associated traffic, parking, light and noise disturbance and giving no obvious benefit to the village. Even more worrying was the Local Planning Authority's full support for the proposal, which was particularly odd as the proposal breached virtually every planning law related to protecting the Green Belt and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

I am pleased to report that despite initially recommending conditional approval in December 2018, the LPA recommended refusal in the summer 2019. However, the whole process was trumped by the Hall being sold to a private buyer who wanted to turn it into a family home.

We welcome the new owners and thank them for preserving the peace and tranquillity at the Chesham end of our village.

Another proposal that is likely to proceed is the building of up to 500 houses to the North East of Chesham, which is part of the Local Plan.

Every council in the country has been obligated to create a Local Plan that will include new housing, community hubs, shopping and traveller sites. The Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan 2036 was submitted for independent examination on 26 September 2019 and all the information can be found on this website: [www.chiltern.gov.uk/planning/localplan](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/planning/localplan).

The development in question is covered on pages 156/7 of the Local Plan and it is proposed that planning permission for a residential-led development will be granted provided that the following site-specific requirements are agreed through the masterplan process and form part of the planning application. We await the results of the consultation so we can consider its impact. However, even if it is approved, any building will be several years away.

Finally - The future of the Golden Eagle is a continuing worry to us here in the village.

Since Helen left the Eagle back in August 2017 - *was it only just over a couple of years?* - the tenancy has changed **Three** times. Sadly the turnover has been quite rapid and in the past year numbers going to the pub dwindled.

We now we learn that Paul, the current tenant, is leaving after just one year in post.

He could be gone by the end of Feb. latest and, at the time of writing, there is no news about what the owners - Punch Taverns - plan to do. To the best of our knowledge they have not identified a replacement and it is expected that a temporary tenant would be installed in the interim.



*This sign appeared in December*

This is a perennial problem in that not enough villagers use the Eagle, so the service and standard drops and then less people use it and we appear to be moving in ever decreasing circles.



The Community Association tried to establish a regular social event where a group of villagers would go up for a meal and a drink to try to keep the place alive - *see here* - but it was too late.

The Eagle probably needs a significant investment/revamp so that it can provide a realistic alternative to the Lazy Pig. We have heard that Punch have talked about an extension but since they seem to work on a shoestring who can tell whether that will come about.

The real fear is that the village could end up losing this valuable and cherished asset. **Do support our pub!**

*Rob Youngs - Chairman*

## FILMING IN ASHLEY GREEN "BACK" Came Back

You might recall that the first six part series of the Channel 4 programme "**Back**" was filmed in May 2017 in the village and was screened that autumn.

They came back and filming for the second series of the programme took place in Hog Lane in October, with the final scenes scheduled to be shot this coming February.

Sue and Rob Freeman's house "Wishanger" was used as the home of the family at the centre of the series, which stars David Mitchell, Robert Webb, Penny Downie, Louise Brealey, Geoffrey McGovern and John Macmillan.

"The actors and crew are efficient and highly professional. All our furniture and belongings in the rooms used in the filming were carefully stored as the house was transformed into the Nichols' family home and then the rooms were meticulously returned to normal." said Sue



*The film crew take over with their gear!*

Between takes, one of the actors was keen to talk to Sue about the garden, much to her delight!

We'll let you know when the second series airs.

**STOP PRESS. THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION VIDEO PROJECTOR**



Way back in 2011 the Ashley Green Film club came into being. A video projector and kit was acquired by the Community Association and the film club began using it to show a wide range of films for about three years.

The projector was also used for the Queens Jubilee and the Royal wedding and, most recently, the Quiz Night.

Sadly the machine sustained a bit of damage and developed faults but we have now purchased a new projector which is in the process of being installed and commissioned and we will keep you posted as to progress.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Ashley Green Community Association  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
 SATURDAY MARCH 7th

**ASHLEY GREEN**  
**VILLAGE FAIR**  
 SATURDAY JUNE 6th

ASHLEY GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 Tuesday June 9th  
**BONFIRE NIGHT**  
 Thursday November 5th

**ADVERTS**

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

**J.R.H.**  
 Handyman  
 Garden Walls - Garden Work  
 Patios - Fencing  
 Brickwork - Repointing  
 Outside Painting  
 Free Quotations  
 John : 01442-865673  
 07788-768313

**REFLEXOLOGY**  
**Wendy Waterman**  
 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](mailto:wend.w@sky.com)

 **KG Marketing Ltd**  
 MARKETING SERVICES FOR  
**SMALL BUSINESSES**  
 Social Media Marketing - Copywriting  
 Marketing Support  
 Contact Katrina on 07753 425412  
[info@kgmarketingltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kgmarketingltd.co.uk)  
[www.kgmarketingltd.co.uk](http://www.kgmarketingltd.co.uk)

ASHLEY GREEN GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP  
**"LUNCH AND CHAT"**  
 INFORMAL SOCIAL GROUP  
 ALL WELCOME  
 in  
**The Old School Ashley Green**  
 EVERY THURSDAY  
 For a "Cuppa" & Chat and  
**Lunch**  
 12.00pm to 2.00pm

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

Printed by  
**Orbit Press - Chesham.**  
 Tel 01494 778053