

# West Ashton Magazine



*Photo by Margaret Workman*

Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage, Bratton Road with wisteria.

***Our community magazine keeping you up to date in West Ashton, Rood Ashton, East Town, and Dunge.***

## **In This Issue...**

**Spring Lambs**

**A Spring Wedding**

**A New Open Garden**

**Lots Of Local News**

**Letters**

**And Much More....**

The West Ashton Magazine is published quarterly by the West Ashton Parish Council. WAPC has devolved full authority for the magazine to an independent volunteer Editorial Group formed for the sole purpose of producing this magazine. The intention is to inform and entertain the residents of West Ashton. The magazine is distributed free of charge to all residents of West Ashton village. The Editors warmly invite you to submit reports, articles and photographs relating to past or future village issues and events, or any subject that may be of interest to the readership. The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions and make corrections, omit material or do minor reorganisation to any submitted work and reserve the right to reject any submissions. We prefer typed or electronic material. Photos will be returned on request.

All material published in The West Ashton Magazine, including adverts, editorials, articles and all other content is published in good faith. The West Ashton Magazine accepts no liability for any errors or omissions and does not endorse any companies, products or services that appear in the publication.

All material is accepted on the understanding that it is copyright free. The West Ashton Magazine accepts no liability for any subsequent copyright issues.

The West Ashton Magazine cannot accept responsibility for and does not endorse views expressed by contributors.

We want the content of the magazine to be primarily editorial, but we will include small advertisements for local businesses based in West Ashton. The West Ashton Magazine does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers.

No part of the magazine may be reproduced without the prior written consent of The West Ashton Magazine,

Editor: Jo Watkins - 01225 753196 :g.watkins521@btinternet.com

Producer: Tim Le Mare - tim@westashton.org.uk

All contributions welcomed. Please send them, in the first instance, to Jo Watkins.

Front page photo 33 Bratton Road by Margaret Workman

## **PRINTING OF THE MAGAZINE IS SPONSORED BY**

### **BRIKEN MOTORS**

**Servicing and Repairs of all types and makes of vehicles.  
MOTs/Pre-checks, diagnostics & electrical, clutch & gearbox specialists;  
air-con, batteries & exhausts.**

**Tel: 01225 755203 –  
www.brikenmotors.co.uk**

## EDITORIAL

On a recent visit to the seaside, I discovered that valuable time was spent by the lifeboat clearing the sea of drifting plastic such as abandoned inflatable air beds. Walking down Bratton Road one Sunday morning, all sorts of rubbish littered the road and pavements, mainly of the take away variety such as burger boxes and coffee cups, obviously thrown from cars after a night out. The previous magazine highlighted

the continuous problem of litter dumped in the village. The message doesn't seem to be getting through to taking litter home rather than spoiling our beautiful countryside. On a lighter note, inside you can read about spring lambs, a spring wedding and a garden in Kettle Lane opening up under the NGS. Do try and visit, all details inside.

Jo

## PUZZLE

Find the first letter of each word to reveal the name of the event that occurs on 21st June each year. Answers on Pg. 26.

---  
-----  
-----  
-----  
---  
---  
-----  
-----

At its hottest in summer  
Children love to play here at this time of year  
Just right for relaxing on when on holiday  
Fun to do on holiday by the sea  
Sun lovers hope to get one of these  
Perfect in long cool drinks  
The perfect partner for strawberries  
Long summer ones are great for barbecues

Margaret Workman

## IN MEMORIAM HELEN ROGERS 1930-2019

Helen was born in Bolton on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1930, just five weeks after husband Ken in Trowbridge, and had a happy childhood there with her sister. Her mother's roots were in Lancashire and her father's in Herefordshire. She attended Bolton School, and then took a degree in history at Bedford College in the University of London. Helen was a librarian at the Institute of Historical Research when Ken first met her. Ken remembers telling her that from the bedroom window of his parent's house in Trowbridge, he could see the parish he was writing the history of for the Victoria County History - West Ashton.

Helen and Ken were married in 1962 in Weobly, her parents had moved to Herefordshire on retirement, and after brief periods in London and Devizes where Edward was born, moved to Erlestoke in 1964. There they added Anthony and Tom. All three sons went to West Ashton School. Finally they moved to East Town in 1972, where they recruited three daughters-in-law and five grandchildren. They continued to live in a place and house less and less suitable for old people, but



could never tear themselves away, aided and abetted by the best of neighbours and friends.

On arriving in Wiltshire, Helen threw herself enthusiastically into local affairs. Secretary of the local branch of the Historical Association, and later of The Friends of the Trowbridge Museum, lecturing on local history and organising innumerable programmes of lectures and outings, committee member of the Wiltshire Archaeological Society (trying 30 years ago to decide the future of Stonehenge),

Cont.

secretary of the Steeple Ashton PCC and regular worshipper there, member and sometime President of the Steeple Ashton WI, and singer with the Trowbridge Philharmonic Choral Society.

She also found time for a happy family life and for her much loved garden. She loved her work as a researcher at the Record Office,

and the staff there were like a second family to Helen and Ken, and still are. So she performed as a daughter, sister, a sister in law, a wife, a mother, a mother in law, and a grandmother. The old Latin motto comes to mind – *Femina nulla non donanda lauru*: A woman to whom nothing could be given but praise.

## Bird watching

Spring is now with us, it has been a long time coming, with the cold winds and dreary days.

The birds are now busy gathering nesting materials and the swallows have arrived. The first one came the third week in March, and its mate the second week in April. They fly straight into the same shed every year. My husband cut a hole in the door so they can come and go at any time.

Swallows have been coming to the shed for about 50 years, it's amazing the journey they travel to get here. Terry Baker (who farmed in the village), would ring every year to ask if the swallows were back, it

was a race to see who was first. My husband, Cyril, kept a record of the date of the first arrival, and this year is the earliest by a few days. In my last article I told you about my budgerigar, Monty. He was always a quiet, nervous bird, and not very active. Early this year he became poorly and passed away. I had decided not to have another bird, but my girls decided not so, we have had budgies for 60 years, and they are part of the family. Oscar is bright blue, very noisy & playful, my new housemate!  
Evelyn Sweetman

## David and Daphne Petrie

As some of our readers know, David (affectionately known as “Dahlia Dave”) and his beloved wife Daphne have had to leave their lovely bungalow, Beechwood on Bratton Road, and are now being cared for at Goodson Lodge on Hilperton Road, Trowbridge.

I do my utmost to visit them once a week for an hour or so which is ample because David does get tired, and they are always so pleased to see me and David, who is 90 years young this year, always asks if there is any village news. Anyone can visit at any time, but I find midday favourite as by then they are up and about waiting for lunch at 12.30. Visitors are made welcome to join them and have a cup of coffee and I have even shared a bowl of soup and a sandwich or two. The staff are so caring and friendly, always smiling and also enjoy one or two of my many jokes (only because they haven’t heard them before!) They both really miss the village, especially the weekly Friday coffee mornings (many thanks to Margaret Workman for these – there does seem to be more biscuits since they moved to Trowbridge!)

It is a lovely residential home complete with cinema, library and numerous comfortable television lounges. David and Daphne have rooms next to each

other on the first floor, beautifully appointed with ensuite bathrooms. The gardens, only formed two years ago, are laid out to be resident friendly and when the weather’s lovely, David and I enjoy sitting outside and catch up on the news.



David has a direct telephone line in his room ([01225 617835](tel:01225617835)) and would love to hear from anybody from the village (best to ring after 1800). Try and spare an hour to visit them, or give David a call for a catch up and if you are able to visit, they still love their smoked salmon sandwiches!

Neil Heard

PS: I’m delighted to report that their beloved cats, Sammy and Amelia, have at last been rehomed in Lyneham and are enjoying the company of a Jack Russell who sleeps next to them.

## LETTERS

### **They do not work – 20 is plenty.**

Whilst sitting quietly on Peter Westlake's bench outside the village hall a few Friday mornings ago, I could not believe the speed vehicles drove over the speed bumps. Cars large and small, vans and lorries didn't even attempt to slow down. Am I the only car owner who values their vehicle?

These so-called speed bumps are NOT fit for purpose and are a total waste of our money. They are in the wrong place and now I've heard (no pun intended) additional speed bumps are planned to be constructed further up Bratton Road at more cost to the village. This is NOT the answer – a chicane constructed just before the school entrance may be the solution as I think the road would be wide enough

there with a reduction of pavement widths on both sides.

I am sure other readers have, like me, had near misses whilst walking on the pavement and trying to cross the road, especially just before the school outside 36 Bratton Road – it's an accident waiting to happen!!

Please don't waste any more of our money. The 5.8% increase in Parish precept for 2019/2020 – is this to pay for more ineffective speed bumps??

PS Perhaps someone should put new batteries in the speed indicators at the top of the village by Shepherds Drove or are they too expensive? And also put some outside the school on the bend.

Neil Heard

### **Why bother?**

Thank you Richard, Simon and Geoff for giving up a Saturday in March to open the hall for the final day of the Six Nations but it was a total waste of your time as the turnout was abysmal. Are there no rugby fans in West Ashton? When five of us went over for the first match we swelled the numbers to eight in total (including Richard and Simon). Due to the lack of numbers we went home after the first match

(thankfully Richard and Geoff were joined by three others) but vowed to return for the final match (England -v- Scotland) which we thought would attract more support. How stupid were we – the five of us went in and three came out!!

It was a total disappointment – if it were me I wouldn't bother next year.

Roe Heard

## GARDENER'S DELIGHT – Jenny Woodall

To say Jenny has green fingers would be a complete understatement. With no formal horticultural training, she is a master of symmetry and colour.

Wishing to downsize, Jenny and husband Tim, a retired solicitor, moved to Kettle Lane one and a half years ago with the added advantage of living near their son and grandchildren. Of course it was the half acre of land with the promise of a magnificent garden which won them over, ignoring words of advice from friends to look for property with a shop, bus stop and nearby doctor's surgery.

Originally from Bristol, Jenny worked as a fashion buyer in London. With an eye for colour, style and balance, skills which perfectly transfer to garden design, she compares landscaping a garden to painting a picture. It was only after her two children grew up, and with more time to spare, that Jenny started her first very large venture 32 years ago into garden design when living at Nyewood. A late Victorian house near Petersfield with three and a half acres of garden alone plus a paddock, she designed

the main features of a hedge on stilts and a knot garden. While showing a group of Russian gardeners around the property, she quickly established that neither of them spoke the other's language. However, the plants came to the rescue with their Latin names with which everyone was familiar, so aiding some degree of communication. Her next move was to Priory House, Bradford on Avon. A Georgian house, her flower beds were a mirror image of each other with toning colours and pleasing to the eye. While there, she was interviewed by Rachel de Tame for Gardener's World. Both gardens have been featured in national garden magazines and designed to suit the property. Not only has Jenny downsized to her lovely cottage, but also to a garden of half an acre. She intends to design this garden with colours graduating into each other – very much like the structure of the colour wheel, rather than a confusion of colours.

She and Tim are very happy living there, but she can feel somewhat isolated working on her own for many hours .....

with only the help of another gardener half a day a week, so she does plan to become more involved with village life in due course. Living on a site of special scientific interest, she delights in the surrounding wildlife – owls, butterflies, hares and deer.

For many years, along with 3,600 other gardens in the UK, Jenny has opened up her garden under the National Garden Scheme, with proceeds going to charity. So look out for the posters advertised in the village (and in this magazine), you'll be in for a treat.

Jo Watkins



### **NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME**

**Kettle Farm Cottage, West Ashton, BA14 6AW**  
**Open by arrangement May-October for groups**  
**of up to 10. Adults £3.50 Children free**  
**Tel 01225 [753474](tel:753474)/[trwoodall@outlook.com](mailto:trwoodall@outlook.com)**  
**Light refreshments incl tea, coffee and/or wine.**  
**Dogs welcome, wheelchair access.**

## West Ashton W.I.

We have had some very enjoyable and interesting meetings in the last few months. Firstly in January an ambassador from the David Shepherd Foundation made us very aware of how easily a World without Wildlife could happen and we were impressed by how hard their group was working to try to ensure that such a catastrophe might be averted. Our February speaker, Micky Fitzpatrick, regaled us with amusing stories of some of the many and varied jobs she'd had before retiring, sometimes in verse, March was the serious business of the AGM followed by our birthday party. Also in March we hosted a meeting for our Spinners Group and were joined by members from seven other W.I.s. Jan McNeal told us about her career as a singer in clubs and then on cruise ships, and how at Cliff Richard's request she

entertained at his 60th Birthday Party. She then demonstrated her talent by singing a number of well-known songs. Refreshments and chat rounded off a pleasant evening.

We now look forward to the months ahead. In April a talk on birthstones should be very enlightening. May is when we discuss the resolution to be discussed at this year's National AGM and decide how we will vote on it, rounded off by a fish and chip supper. Our June speakers will be bringing some live specimens to illustrate their talk on Looking after British Bats. We set out on another journey into the unknown in July when we embark on our annual Mystery outing.

Lots to look forward to and if anything appeals to you please come and join us.

**Jackie Bradley**

## Wives



Quiz winners

Photo Jo Watkins

We began the year with the usual game of bingo, followed in February with 'A Trip Down the Nile' with Linda Dowsett. Our quiz in March went very well, while in April member, Joanne, gave us an insight into reiki, massage to soothe away aches and pains with member Megan being a willing participant. We finished in May with a party, a glass of wine and social time.

**Sylvia Preston**

## LARKRISE COMMUNITY FARM

Following a wet, and occasionally wild winter, spring sprung with gusto and it has been an exciting few months at Larkrise Community Farm.

Our Riding for the Disabled group merged with the Hampsley Hollow and Lacock RDA group in September, which resulted in us welcoming many more disabled riders over winter and spring. Our Equine Assisted Learning programme is still in its infancy, but is growing ever more popular and provides therapeutic learning for a wide range of participants.

Wendy, our Farm Manager, using Eros her Welsh Cob, began to chain harrow one of our fields in March. It was a wonderful sight to behold, reminding us of the old ways of farming. Our students rose to the challenge of preparing fields for sowing, prior to mechanisation.

In April we said goodbye to our two Hereford calves as they moved on to pastures new; and said hello to eleven lambs in total this year, including gorgeous black triplets from our oldest ewe Lambkin. The ram who tupped the ewes was a Cotswold, a long-woolled breed. Several of the lambs have inherited his curly locks. Two 'Easter' chicks also arrived on Good Friday – how's that for perfect timing? More chicks are most definitely on their way, as many of our hens are broody.

Over the Easter holidays our classroom and toilets had a much needed makeover. We now have mood lighting; matching pine furniture; freshly painted walls and floors; and new signage. The transformation was such that when some students arrived back after Easter, they thought they were in the wrong place!

Finally our biannual farm fete will take place this year on Saturday 27 July, so watch this space for more details.....

Ashley Wicks  
Assistant Farm Manager



## Pottering in the Garden.

I absolutely love this time of year. Everything is waking up, and it's a joy to watch seeds and plants emerging. It's mid April as I write this, and at last the cold weather is being replaced with some warm sunshine, now things will grow more quickly! Jo gave me a coreopsis last May, and when it finished flowering, it sprouted bunched leaves from the stems. I carefully detached them, and planted them in compost with added grit for drainage, 12 of them. I have enclosed a picture, not a single failure, I do love free plants. Penstemon is another favourite of mine, as it has a long flowering period from June/ July to the first frosts of winter. I like to purchase plug plants and nurture them myself, a much cheaper option than buying them grown. I need quite a few for my two urns, and just one hanging basket, as I need to reduce the amount of watering. So far I've grown verbenas, upright geraniums, and ivy leaf (trailing) ones, fuchsias, stocks, and marigolds to plant in the greenhouse as they keep aphids away, on the vegetable side, moneymaker tomatoes, au-

bergines, peppers, courgettes, spring onions, carrots, beetroot, radish, lettuce, (Tom-thumb), runner beans, and broad beans. Nothing compares to gathering home grown produce. Oh, yes the sweet pea, competition is on again with my daughter - it's who gets the first flower in bloom? I have been amazed how a simple shrub can grow into a tree in 15 years, so I have been pruning, and reducing the size of all, and it's really opened up my garden again!

A new project this spring was to recreate an area which was for storage, i.e. pots, hidden by a surround of shrubs, so a trip to re-cycle, a place I frequent far too much! And now it has become a part of the garden again - more planting on going? My son in Houston tells me it's time to lower my standards, and the maintenance, but that's not me, because I enjoy it!

TOP TIP - for summer has to be to keep dead heading, which keeps your plants renewing, instead of going to seed. Then sit back, enjoy your garden and relax with a good book!

Holly Westlake.

## Plants for the hanging basket



Photos Jo Watkins

## Parish Council Matters

Parish Councillors are: Richard Covington (Chair), Simon Alford (Vice-Chair), Helen Barrow, Steve Molloy, Horace Prickett (Wilts Councillor).

**Parish Council budget 2019/20** - The parish council has reviewed this year's precept. The new Band 'D' equivalent will rise from £29.28 to £31 for 2019/20. This is around 3p to 9p a week depending on the housing "Band". This is a modest increase enabling the parish council to continue to budget for investment in the recreation area, traffic calming, continue development of the neighbourhood plan and discharge its statutory requirements.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – Unfortunately there is nothing to report as we have not received any reply from Wiltshire Council.

**Fly Tipping** – Contact Wiltshire Council on 01225 777234 or online at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/mywiltshirereport.htm>

**Community Speed Watch (CSW)** – Sadly we have been unable to carry out the routine monitoring of traffic speed on the Bratton road for a while now because the kit was returned. There are still three of us but we really would like some more help. If you would like to join us, please email the parish clerk or contact me ... Richard Covington.

**Footpath through the school** – The issue of diverting the footpath through the school has arisen again the initial proposal is to divert it along the edge of the playing field next to the hedge on the left side to a new kissing-gate into the field that leads to the church. I'm sure there will be more information available in due course.

Richard Covington  
Parish Council Chairman

West Ashton website: [www.westashton.org.uk](http://www.westashton.org.uk)  
please send any comments to the Clerk at [westashtonpc@outlook.com](mailto:westashtonpc@outlook.com)

## Biss Barn

All the trees on both the farm and barn were felled in the summer of 2017. The Forestry Commission subsequently served a restocking notice in October 2017. The expectation was for new trees to be planted but the owners appeal was upheld and the restocking notice withdrawn. It appears they were able to

convince the hearing that the woodland was really a garden and therefore not subject to the Forestry Commissions powers of enforcement. It was galling to only find out in March by enquiring why the restocking had not started that an appeal had even been made let alone upheld.

*Photo of the Garden*



## School Parking

Wiltshire Council has received a complaint about parking outside the school and are now proposing to introduce Parking Restrictions on the Bratton Road Monday to Friday between 8am to 5pm. The application is to revoke The County of Wiltshire (Parishes of West Wiltshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting, Taxi Rank Clearways and On Street Parking) Consoli-

dation Order 2016, to re-enact it in the above Order 2 and to formalise the School keep clear entrance marking outside of West Ashton C of E School with the restriction No Stopping Mon-Fri 8am-5pm on entrance markings on the north side of Bratton Road – from the eastern boundary of No. 31A Bratton Road for a distance of 36 metres in a south easterly direction.

**Cont.**



## Longs Trust

A reminder - The Longs Trust Charity was founded by the will of Henry Long dated 1670 and augmented by the will of Richard Long dated 1730. The sums left were invested in the purchase of land for the use and benefit of the poor of the tithing of West Ashton. The land eventually fell into disuse and in 1966 was sold for £750 and the proceeds invested in 674 shares in the Charity Commission investment fund now valued at £7,500 in January 2018.

The policy over recent years has been to use some of the income from the shares to make donations where cases of need are brought to the notice of the Trustees. It should be noted that funds cannot be used to help in cases where they are the responsibility of Government De-

partments or Local Authorities. The remainder is put aside to build a fund that could be used in the event of a major catastrophe occurring in the village.

Primary contact can be made via the Parish Council clerk who will pass onto the trustees. Alternatively contact can be made directly to the trustees.

Any enquiries will be handled confidentially and will not involve parish councillors unless contact is made via a councillor. The Parish Council's responsibility is to appoint the Trustees and receive the annual financial report and duly record at the appropriate parish council meeting. Application decisions will only be made by the Trustees.

Richard Covington

## Village Hall News...

A quiet time for the village hall, all appears to be running smoothly...

The Six Nations Rugby Tournament final on the 16<sup>th</sup> March didn't create a big turnout, which is a shame since it's a free event. The bar was open as usual with light snacks available.

The annual Murder Mystery on the 6<sup>th</sup> April was well supported again this year; unfortunately a few regulars were missing due to illness.

The Friday coffee mornings run by Margaret Workman are still as popular as ever and the numbers even seem to be increasing. All are welcome, the coffee and biscuits are free, just a donation if you like.

Thank you to Margaret for running the coffee morning and those who step in to help when Margaret can't make it.

PS: I've also heard on very good authority that Neil Heard has made the weekly village hall coffee mornings a 'Brexit free Zone'. Ed

The fire extinguishers have been checked and replaced where necessary. The power failure lighting has been renewed and the gutters cleaned of the winter debris.

The bar prices have been increased this year, and looking back over the committee minutes, it appears to be the first increase for about five years.

The village hall committee continues to work hard to keep the hall in good condition and provide one of the focal points for village events, whether they are organised by the committee or regular hirers. The bottom line is, we all contribute to the well being of the hall and those that use the hall, thank you to all those who help.

If you would like to receive or have stopped receiving email notification of events please send an email to [westashtonvil-lagehall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:westashtonvil-lagehall@hotmail.co.uk)

Richard Covington, Chairman VH committee

## Village Hall Snatches Skittle Win Over Church

Saturday, 16 February saw the annual skittle match between the Village Hall and Church. The winning score for the Hall was 279 (20 more than the Church). A fun evening was had by all and the ploughman's supper was relished by those attending. Raphael and Ethan Alford did a great job being in charge of replacing the skittles. At the end of the evening, Wendy Bartlett won the ladies prize with a score of 19; with Richard Covington winning the gents prize with a score of 21. Both won the annual cups and bottles of wine. After expenses, a cheque for £100 was handed to St John's to help with Church funds. Thanks to all those who helped to make this event a success.



Jean Robertson

## Village Hall 50 Club Winners

MONTH	1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	3 <sup>RD</sup> PRIZE
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Sylvia Bee	Keith Taylor	Bing White
<b>MARCH</b>	Tina Andrews	Simon Alford	Lis Mercer
<b>APRIL</b>	Daphne Peat	Nathan Jenkyn	Jean Robertson

## The Magazine 10 Years Ago

Parish Council – On the matter of speeding, following representations to the police, early morning speed checks on vehicles entering the village from the Bratton direction have resulted in a high number of offences being registered. The parish council was working with Keevil, Steeple Ashton and Bratton parish councils on the provision of mobile speed traffic indicators. The Trowbridge Town Council were looking at how the boundaries of parishes around Trowbridge line up with the Trowbridge town boundary. A flyer was produced which contained a number of questions seeking views on whether folk felt part of Trowbridge or West Ashton.

Village Hall – It was just over a year when the hall reopened for business following the total refurbishment of the original building. Hiring had steadily increased, however, the Beetle Drive had to be cancelled due to lack of support, but the New Year's dinner/dance and Valentine's dance were both great successes. A village hall website had been set up to advertise the facilities.

School – Building work was completed on four classroom spaces and a dedicated computer suite. An official opening ceremony was held on 19<sup>th</sup> May to which all villagers were invited. The headteacher planned to offer a computer club for anyone in the village and wider community to meet up and perhaps learn some new things. A group of volunteers had been set up to listen to the children reading. A new outdoor classroom was under construction. Charles Church auctioned off the furniture in the Shepherds Drove show home, and donated half the proceeds to the school which benefitted to the sum of £908. The then headteacher, Jonathan Barber rounded off by asking villagers if they had any ideas or suggestions that would be of mutual benefit to both village and school to get in touch – the door was always open.

A villager wrote to the magazine commenting on the community spirit and friendliness of villagers generated during the recent snow.

Jo Watkins



### **Murder in the Distillery another ham up presentation by the West Ashton “Fun Players” at the Village Hall**

‘Who pushed Toby Mory into the VAT of his own whisky? Was it the bash on the back of the head or did he fall in and drown. Why was the ladle found underneath the body? The cast threw themselves into this fifth and what seems to have become an annual evening of murder in the village hall. It was a classic tale of who stood to lose or was it gain the most? If you were there, then you know.... The cast of six light-heartedly worked their way through the script ably helped by the Police

inspector – DI McNicked who provided some guidance. The photograph shows the cast of the latest production from the West Ashton Fun Players from L-R: Jean Covington, Horace Prickett, Jean Robertson, Richard Covington, Sylvia Preston and Gary Norris. The Narrator was Vaughan Nichols. The meal was provided by Steve and his team. After much intrigue, the culprit was found, can you spot who it was?

Richard Covington

## THE OLD VICARAGE (continued)

In the last magazine, I asked anyone who was able to provide any more information about the Old Vicarage, to get in touch. Betty Cronan is more than qualified as she had lived there for over 37 years. After the previous incumbent, the Diocese sold off the Old Vicarage along with several others. Betty, husband Michael, their two children Lisa and Andrew and Betty's mother Winifred, moved into the vicarage in 1970, complete with a sitting tenant and a well in the kitchen floor. There was a lot of work to be done outside. Michael, who could turn his hand to most things, repaired the stable block and courtyard, and landscaped the garden to include a croquet lawn. Luckily the interior was in good condition, and they were able to move in immediately. Next door, a new vicarage had been built, and knowing the vagaries of the Bratton Road numbering system, decided to rename their home Welam House, using the first letters of the family's Christian names - Winifred, Elizabeth (Betty), Lisa, Andrew and Michael. As the village church fete was al-

ways held there, Betty carried on with the tradition.

Wishing to stay home while her children were growing up, Betty decided to take on the local playgroup previously run in the village hall. Registered for 17 children, she took in children not only from the village but from the surrounding area. Continuing for the next 10 years, she gave up when the birth-rate dropped.

Her next venture was to run a Bed and Breakfast and was always fully booked during the annual Edington Music Festival. Famous guests included the Bishop of Jerusalem, and Freddy and the Dreamers. Turning 70, she decided to retire, but still lives in the area.

A brochure describes the house as 'Built of Bath stone in 1840 and a former vicarage. A fine example of mid-Victorian Gothic architecture, the house retains many of its original period features, with elegant stained glass windows in the hall'.

Jo Watkins

## Wallflowers At The Church



*Photo Jean Robertson*

Wiltshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers with The Textile Studios invite you to their **Exhibition** - "Made with Pride"

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 10.30 - 4**

At The Textile Studios, St Mary's School Building, High St, Steeple Ashton BA14 6EU

Live and interactive demonstrations

Refreshments with homemade cakes

Free entry, free parking (at rear - entry via Acreshort Lane)

For further info, please visit our website

[www.westwilts-communityweb.com/site/Wiltshire-Guild](http://www.westwilts-communityweb.com/site/Wiltshire-Guild)

## St John's Church

Snow in February saw no service at St John's, then in March there was a combined service held at the Mead School between St Thomas, Kingfisher, Holy Trinity and St John's. March saw the return of primroses within the churchyard and also the approach of Lent, all colour was stripped at this solemn time in the church calendar. However, on Sunday, 31 March, St John's celebrated twofold – not only was it Mothering Sunday, when posies are handed out to all mums/grannies in church, but it was a week before our vicar, Allan Coutts, wedding. To celebrate the

Allan and Janet's wedding took place at St Thomas Church on Saturday, 6 April. It was such a happy day and joy resonated throughout the church, which was full with over 200 family; friends and church members. We see the happy couple signing the register and leaving

To put the cherry on the cake, on Sunday, 28 April, we had a double christening. Revd. Coutts baptised Grace (1) and Victoria (3) Cradock. Their proud parents Jo and Roy were married in the church five

forthcoming happy day, St John's put in place a chocolate cake and fizz to toast the approaching event – see Allan cutting the cake. A group photograph was then taken and as the bridegroom left wearing a very becoming floral garland, a guard of honour of walking sticks laid before him. A mystery banner appeared on his car, which he kept in situ until after the wedding – bless. We then headed straight into Easter, when colour returned and the flower girls once again turned St John's into a blaze of colour, a beauty to behold and so fitting to celebrate the risen Lord.

the church. Janet is a librarian at the Stonar School and has been attending St Thomas's for many years. The Rural Dean – Rev. Andrew Evans led the service. The happy couple had a short honeymoon, walking in the Lake District.

years ago. The happy occasion topped the first quarter of the year at the Church splendidly. Here's to the next four months.

With blessings,  
Jean Robertson



1 Week  
Before



The  
Signing

*Photo by  
Tom Fahey*



Newly  
Weds

*Photo by  
Tom Fahey*



The Christening

## Easypeasy chocolate puddings

100gms dark chocolate 70% cocoa solids  
100gms soft butter  
200gms sugar  
4 eggs  
50gms flour  
1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
Pinch salt  
For the glaze.....  
150gms dark chocolate 70%  
45gms butter  
2x40gm Crunchy bars or honey comb

**Method** - Preheat oven 180 degrees gas mark 4. Break chocolate into pieces and melt with the butter in a bowl over simmering water or in a microwave. Beat eggs and sugar till very thick pale and moussy. Fold in the flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Fold in the slight cooled chocolate and butter mixture. Divide between eight ramekins. Bake for 25 minutes

For the glaze - Melt the chocolate and butter then whisk until glossy. Spoon onto the cooked puddings. Crush/crumble the Crunchies (or honeycomb if using) and sprinkle over the top. These are so easy to make and delicious if you love a chocolate hit.

Jo Walton



### Answers

SUN  
OUTSIDE  
LOUNGERS  
SWIMMING  
TAN  
ICE  
CREAM  
EVENINGS

Event - SOLSTICE

<b>Other Useful Numbers</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	
<b>Builder</b>	Paul - New build, extensions, renovation specialist, alterations.	01225 753997/07799 563347 19 Bratton Road,
<b>All Domestic, Commercial Cleaning</b>	Heidi	07514319533
<b>Foot Reflexologist</b>	Annie Ritchens	01225 752002 Mob 07967630429
<b>Garage Services</b>	Briken Motors Garage....MOTs, servicing etc,	01225 755203
<b>Zen Judo Classes</b>	Age 8+ W. Ashton School 7.00-8:30pm Fridays.	Colin Delve colin.delve@danone.com www.zenjudoclub.co.uk
<b>Library</b>	The Mobile Library visits Orchard Close 3.30 to 4 pm	www.services.wiltshire.gov.uk/ MobileLibrary/Library/Stop/57
<b>Logs</b>	Logs for sale. Ben Pike	01380 870808
<b>Gardener</b>	Paul Hobbs	01225 761684
<b>Newspapers</b>	Seend Post Office deliver	01380 828250
<b>Parish Council</b>	Chairman: Mr Richard Covington	01225 761904
<b>Police Concerns</b>	David Bradley Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Village Co-ordinator Neighbourhood Policing Team PC Mark Hough PC1140	01225 754100  Non-emergency No 101
<b>Refuse</b>	Community skips in Canal Road, Trowbridge for larger items.	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ rubbish-collection-days</a>
<b>Seamstress &amp; Soft Furnishings</b>	Clare Humphries, curtains, dress-making and alterations	01225 767703 Mob 07929 122631
<b>St. John's Church</b>	Services Sundays 10.30am. Rev Allan Coutts	01225 754826
<b>West Ashton Boomerang Taxi Service</b>  <i>West Ashton to Trowbridge.</i>	Taxi service. Mon-Sat West Ashton to Trowbridge. Price each way: adult £1.60; child 80p; children under 4 free. Bus passes can be used.	Morning pickup 9.30am, return 12 noon Or 2pm. Tel: <b>0800 371297</b> to book.
<b>West Ashton C of E School</b>	Debby Huxham Head Teacher	01225 754354
<b>West Ashton Ladies Skittles Team</b>	Mrs. Sharon Shiles	01380 870196
<b>Financial Adviser Investment management, protection</b>	Thomas Porter Retirement & Inheritance tax Planning	07738011187 Www.thomasporterwm.co.uk



# What's Coming Up

## June

3	Wives Coach Trip
6	WI Village Hall 7.30pm, with Liz Eley and Pete Gulliver on British Bats

## July

13	Village Hall annual Skittles and BBQ evening 7.30pm
17	Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7.15pm
23	WI Mystery Trip leaving the Village Hall 6.15pm Members Only

## August

7	Village Hall AGM 7.30pm
28	WI Village Hall 7.30pm, Author Jeremy Dix Operation Wansdyke - story of a story

## September

4	Wives Village Hall 7.30pm Gaynor Bevan on Photography
---	---

*All Village Hall events are with a licenced bar with a raffle  
Tickets From Sylvia Preston 01225 765858 or Jean Robertson 01225 760368  
If you wish to book the Village Hall: [westashtonbookings@btinternet.com](mailto:westashtonbookings@btinternet.com)*

## Regular Activities In The Village Hall

<b>Social Dancing</b>	Most Sundays at 6pm	Mr. Kevin Burge	07933 771205
<b>Dance Class</b>	Tuesdays at 10am	Dee Dee Wilde	01380 871608
<b>Dog Training</b>	Thursday's at 6.30pm	Ken Scott	07867 820497
<b>Pilates</b>	Most Tuesday's at 5pm	Amie Hawkins	07738 449245
<b>Tai Chi</b>	Monday's at 10.30am	Brian Wooding	01985 213474
<b>Wives Group</b>	730pm 1st Wednesday of the month	Marlene Pike Sylvia Preston	01380 870272 01225 765858
<b>WI</b>	Fourth Wednesday of the Month	Holly Westlake	01225 755866
<b>Yoga</b>	6.15pm Most Monday's duration 1.5hrs	Angeline Nicholson	01380 830458
<b>Coffee Mornings</b>	Fridays 10.30 to Noon	Margaret Workman	01225 766998

For more information on dates go to [www.westshton.org.uk/hall](http://www.westshton.org.uk/hall)

