



# *The West Ashton Magazine*

Issue 40

September 2013



**Bird's-eye view of West Ashton**

*Photo Ian Harris*

**Keeping you up-to-date in West Ashton,  
Rood Ashton, East Town and Dunge**



[www.westashton.org.uk](http://www.westashton.org.uk)



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## Editorial

**W**e all know that the main topic of conversation for a lot of us is the weather, but at the time of writing we're sizzling in the heat in contrast to the non summer of last year. From WI cream teas held in a member's colourful back garden, to an extract from a "Midsummer's Night Dream" performed in the school playing field for the children by visiting drama students,

you couldn't create a better backdrop if you tried. Our parish is surrounded by idyllic countryside and footpaths abounding in wildlife, but how many of us are too busy to go out and explore our surroundings? Read all about it inside, but make sure you report the dumped settees and building materials that increasingly litter the area.

*Jo and Paul*

## Village Defibrillator Appeal

**A**t the last Parish Council meeting, the councillors were shown a defibrillator by Nigel Inseal of the Westbury First Responders. It was felt that, in view of the ageing population, this would be a valuable asset to the village. The total cost of the recommended defibrillator would be £1100 plus VAT and an additional amount would be necessary for a secure case to keep it in, mounted outside the Village Hall. This is quite a large sum of money for the Parish Council to find from its funds, so we are looking for suggestions for fund-raising or sponsorship in order for this invaluable piece of equipment to be provided for the residents of West Ashton.

Once the funding has been secured it is hoped that 4 or 5 volunteers would be willing to be trained in its use (the cost for this is included in the £1100) although it is possible for anyone to use it as it gives almost foolproof instructions once opened.

### Universal Symbol for AED



When you see this symbol it means that an automated external defibrillator (AED) is available.

For more information or offers of support please contact a Parish Councillor - a list of their contact details can be found on the Village Hall notice board.

*Margaret Workman*

## Parish Council Matters

### Website

Information has now been placed on the West Ashton Parish Council website, and we will endeavour to keep this regularly updated.

<http://www.westashton.org.uk/parishcouncil.htm>

### Planning

The Core Strategy – It is anticipated the inspector will publish his report in the Autumn (2013) but information about the EIP (Examination in Public) can be found at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy/wiltshirecorestrategyexamination.htm>

Wind Farm – No progress... The developer has said they have no plans to submit an application, not altogether surprising because the Inspector's EIP report has not been published yet.

However the Advertising Standards Agency (ASA) have adjudicated on the content of one of the opposition flyers. The ASA statement can be found at:

[http://www.asa.org.uk/Rulings/Adjudications/2013/7/Stop-Grange-Farm-Wind-Farm/SHP\\_ADJ\\_201148.aspx](http://www.asa.org.uk/Rulings/Adjudications/2013/7/Stop-Grange-Farm-Wind-Farm/SHP_ADJ_201148.aspx)

Keevil development – subject to planning approval the RAF propose to build a gravel runway at Keevil for the purposes of Air Transport training. Construction is expected to commence in May 2014 with completion in February 2015. This item is included for

information because if it is approved it will result in extra night flying and it may also have a detrimental effect on the prospects for a wind farm.

### Highways

Traffic Light – cross road works after some disruption hopefully it will be finished by the time this magazine is published. Let's hope the anticipated traffic flow improvements materialise. Priority for road improvements – the short list has been agreed and sent to the Department of Transport. In short Yarnbrook (£3.6m) is included but West Ashton is on the contingency list, it's cost is estimated at £6.3m

Westbury Bypass – This thorny subject is still about, Wilts Council want to keep it as a saved policy but the EIP Inspector is not so far persuaded but we'll have to await his report.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) – The police have a back log in processing the information so sessions have been voluntarily limited to when our community police officer is available. The situation should improve because the new police commissioner is allocating funds to the scheme as he supports CSW.

### Other Matters

Recreational Area – East Town Lane. Draft plans have been drawn and discussed at the last council meeting so hopefully we will see progress in planting hedges and installing play

## Parish Council Matters (continued)

equipment – soon...

There have been yet more fly-tipping incidents, this time two sofas at the entrance to the water board site, near the mobile phone mast. To help keep on top of this growing problem Wiltshire Council's website has an online facility to report them. I would encourage everyone to do so when the need arises:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/streetcarecleaning/streetcarereportingform.htm?type=flyposting>

Fly Posting is the unauthorised placing of posters, advertisements and notices on lamp posts, railings, phone boxes, bus stops, public toilets and other equipment or signs in public areas. Fly posting is an offence and offenders can be fined up to £2500. Any illegal advertising will be removed by the council without notice.

Legislation: Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Highways Act 1980,

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

Fly Tipping is the illegal dumping of waste and is a criminal offence.

Fly-tippers can be fined up to £50,000 (this amount is unlimited if convicted in a Crown Court) and even be sent to prison for up to five years. Waste is often dumped from vehicles and the owner can also be prosecuted if the vehicle (not the driver) is identified. The police also have the powers to seize vehicles used for fly tipping.

To help reduce fly tipping, the council operates a chargeable special collection service for bulky items.

In my annual report I thanked all the councillors for their support during the past year but at the same time Geoff and Ron had not declared their intention not to stand for re-election this year.

Therefore I would like to thank them again here in the West Ashton Magazine. Geoff Watkins for his support in attending the Parish Liaison meetings and the Trowbridge Area Board meetings and his tireless efforts to raise funds to continue with the publication of this magazine. Ron Pybus for his support and liaison with Wiltshire Council to help keep the village tidy through the endeavours of the Parish Steward Scheme.

*Richard Covington, Parish Council  
Chairman*



The crossroads has new traffic lights installed – at night  
*Photo Geoff Watkins*

## Ladies at Leisure



*Wives Group and friends enjoyed a stop-off at Cerne Abbas airport in June, posing in front of one of the vintage planes en route to Bournemouth. The sun shone non-stop all day, proving that the sun always shines on the righteous.*

*Jo Watkins*

*All meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, with the exception of the January meeting which will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Entry is £1.50 to include refreshments.*

### West Ashton Ladies Skittles Team

**T**he skittles season for 2012/13 has now ended. It was a troubled season to say the least, with games being cancelled by other teams due to difficulties fielding a team or illness stepping in. Two venues have closed down, so this also put a strain on where our opponents could play their home games. Nevertheless, the West Ashton Ladies always come up trumps. We remain in Division II, but down a few places as our performance last season wasn't as good as in previous seasons and we didn't



play as many games – that's the way of the draw!

September brings a whole new season, with Sylvia Bee our vice-captain and Lyn Doel our new treasurer who replaces Jean Platts. Grateful thanks to Jean for 23 years dedication to our 'monies', and thank you team for always being available in the case of last minute changes, not forgetting Jack our pin setter who does a great job.

*Happy skittling,  
Betty Cronan, captain.*

## More Ladies at Greater Leisure

In April, West Ashton WI had a very amusing talk from Pauline Beech of the Bath Silver Ring choir. Pauline has visited us before and proved so popular that she came back for a return visit. An amazing speaker who never uses notes or props and has everyone in stitches by the end of the evening. In May we had our annual discussion on topical issues and this year the resolution up for discussion was 'Save our High Streets'. Some members thought the WI was a bit behind the curve on this debate and the only way to stop the decline was for people to use local shops more. But many people prefer to use supermarkets, and towns like Trowbridge and Westbury fail to help local shops by charging for parking. I suspect this debate will continue, but we stopped in time to enjoy a delicious fish and chip supper. In June it was time for our annual mystery trip and what a beautiful evening we had. On arrival at the village hall drivers were given their route and destination which was such a mystery that I doubt many of us could locate it again. All I'm prepared to say on the subject is that it involved a lot of things that we throw away being turned into something more interesting, and that there is more to life than a clean and tidy home. A fabulous evening



much enjoyed by all which ended in a picnic on the lawn overlooking the beautiful Wiltshire countryside. The beginning of July brought our fundraising cream tea, which was a great success with wonderful scones, cheerful company and glorious weather in a beautiful garden. Many thanks to Wendy Bartlett for the loan of her garden and house and thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the day.

*Margaret Moore, President.*

*Top: Mystery trip, with garden statuary made out of who knows what.*

*Photo Paul Workman*

*Left: Cream teas in Bratton Road.*



## Village Hall News

I would like to thank all those that supported the Village Hall Committee on the events that were arranged for 2012/13. A list of coming events is in this edition of the magazine, with the next event advertised on the board outside the village hall with a contact number for tickets.

The village ran a pilot film event on the pub night in June, which although not well attended did prove the 'technology'. At this point I would like to thank Sam Nash for kindly letting us borrow the school projector. Sam has now donated a surplus projector for use by the village hall, parish council and church.

Now that the village hall has a television licence as well a further event was organised with a showing of this year's 'British F1 Grand Prix' on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. There was good support for this so other topical events will be organised. Please let a committee member know what topics would be of interest, either television broadcasts or film (DVD).

The BBQ in July went off well with the traditional Burger or Sausage in a roll for a £1 each. (a bargain methinks). Thank you to Emma, Lucy and Sylvia for putting it together. A special thanks to Lucy for the salad.

About the Hall: the car park has been tarmaced; the new inner doors installed and painted white. In general the hall is pretty well up together so hopefully maintenance will tick along.

Don't forget the Vegetable show on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

*Vaughan Nichols, Village Hall Chairman*

### West Ashton 2014 Calendar:

The village hall committee wish to thank those who entered the photograph competition for the 2014 calendar. However, sadly due to lack of entries, this will now be held over to next year, when hopefully a 2015 village calendar may be considered.

**Found** - A pair of spectacles were found on the Village Hall doorstep on the 6<sup>th</sup> June and nobody has claimed them. Please contact Laurie Richardson 01225 774050.

### 50 Club Winners

April: 1st Ron Pybus ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Foster, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandy Daniels

May: 1st Peter Westlake; 2nd Gardenia Jackson; 3rd Daphne Peat

June: 1st David Petrie; 2nd J Foster; 3rd A Nicholson

July: 1st Peter Jones; 2nd Phil Eggleton; 3rd Dorothy Rogers

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## Wide Load on the A350

A slow-moving, 20ft wide and 83ft long transporter was used to carry a load of steel framework from Westbury to Eastleigh, Hampshire one Sunday in early May. This photo taken in Yarnbrook Road, shows it heading for the M4 complete with police escort, and practically taking up the whole width of the road. It begs the question why smaller steel parts couldn't have been taken to Eastleigh by rail and assembled on site. Our thanks go to Jean Robertson for getting up with the lark to take this



photo for the magazine.

## All Hands to the Pumps!



Back in April an emergency situation arose in Bratton Road when a fire broke out at a house in the middle part of the village. Fire crews were quickly on the scene, the blaze was soon under control and thankfully nobody was hurt. The incident occurred in late afternoon, just as rush hour traffic began to build and it was obvious that traffic would not be

able to get through, so seizing the moment, residents Margaret Workman and Neil Heard donned hi-viz jackets to warn motorists not to venture further up the road than Orchard Close. By the time the incident was concluded there had been five fire engines, an ambulance, a Wessex Water crew and electricians from Scottish and Southern Electric in attendance. Great thanks must go to Wiltshire Fire and Rescue for dealing so swiftly with the problem and preventing what could have been so much worse.

*Paul Workman*

# BatWatch

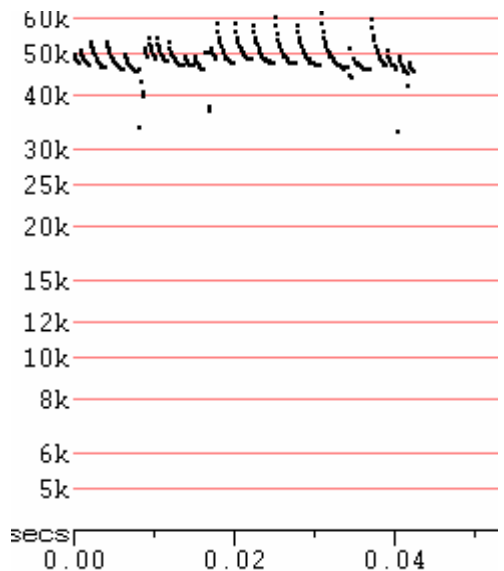
**I**t was in the middle of the summer heat wave when a small group met at the church at dusk for a bat watch session. Experts Alison Rasey and Jan Freeborn were on hand with their bat detector kits to help us to listen to the varying frequencies. Inside the church there was evidence of bats with the tell tale signs of the droppings, a problem for many churches but no sign of the bats themselves. Outside we watched and waited and learnt some of the facts about these amazing little creatures. The bats use high frequency calls that are well beyond the range of the human ear but with the ‘heterodyne’ (for the techies) bat detectors the inaudible frequency is shifted sufficiently for us to hear. The high frequency used by the bats enables them to wing their way through the night and hunt down even the tiniest of creatures. It was amazing to hear the sudden burst of fast echoing as they homed in to their prey.

As evening wore on we became quite proficient at recognising the different sounds picked up on the bat detector and the different audible frequencies that determine a particular bat species. As the sun set and we watched the bats swirling and swooping from the bell tower of the church we identified the common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and horseshoe bats. It was a very enjoyable and informative evening.

Fairly reasonably priced detectors can be purchased on the internet  
*Jean Covington*

*Bat experts Jan Freeborn and Alison Rasey  
 Photo: Geoff Watkins*

*Below: a sonogram of the Common Pipistrelle bat viewed on the Anabat equipment*



## Walking the Walk

It is often said that when walking through a town or city that you should occasionally look up because you might miss something, like an unusual feature or remarkable piece of architecture. By contrast I suggest that when walking in the countryside you should occasionally look down, because, apart from possibly unusual wild flora, you might just come across a little bit of history.

In July we walked the public footpaths towards East Town, then on to Dunge and finally towards Capps Lane. Whilst minding my footing, I would occasionally glance down and here and there, amongst the numerous stones, I found pieces of oyster shells and part of a shaft from a clay pipe. Apparently in the nineteenth century, oysters were plentiful and cheap, the 'fast food' of the day, so perhaps workers in the fields had them for lunch and just discarded them.

During the walk we sighted a number of hyperactive swifts around the copse at East Town and a muntjac deer, which made a swift getaway when it noticed us. Our most unusual encounter was with dozens of vividly coloured Small Tortoiseshell butterflies. They appeared to come from nowhere, which is characteristic, for when their wings are closed up they are almost invisible. Apparently they have two broods, one in June and the other in August/September, so early July may indicate they are little late this year. In addition we observed Gatekeepers, a Marbled White, a Speckled Wood and Small Skippers. To see so many Lepidoptera on the wing was a delight.

Even when taking a familiar path route you never know what you might find.

*Paul and Margaret Workman*



*Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*

It's become something of an annual event seeing grass snakes visiting ponds in the back gardens of Bratton Road. Once again it's been foiled by the netting - so near and yet so far, you can see by the bumps, it's already dined well.

*Holly Westlake*



## Jubilee Wood Scout Camp Site

**D**espite the heat, our trees seem to be doing rather well, with many peeking out of the tops of the tubes. Hopefully the deer won't find these shoots too attractive. The big chore now is to look down each tube, hammer home the stake and remove any weeds that are filling the tubes. The grass on our camping area and clearings is looking very good and hopefully will have built up a good enough turf to allow camping next year.

We still have a lot to do, but on the plus side, our buildings are now complete and plumbed into a septic tank. This was despite a visit from some burglars who stole about £500 of pipe fittings and wheeled them off in our new wheelbarrow.

We have had several visits from Scout units and held our first event, which was a Scout go-cart derby. This went very well indeed with

several teams competing on a circuit round our new drive and car park.

As a way of saying "thank you" to all those who have helped and supported us, and to show off how well we have been doing. We are organising "Open Days" on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> from 11.00 am until 4pm and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 10.00 am until 4pm each day. There will be no ceremony, just a short tour of the facility and our field lasting between 30 and 40 minutes. Each tour will start on the hour on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> the tours will start every 30 minutes beginning at 10 am. Please just turn up if you would like to see what we have been up to, we would love to see you and to show you how much we have achieved in so short a time.

*John Cox – Chairman Wiltshire West District Scout Association.*

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## Larkrise Farm News

This Year Larkrise Community Farm held our well attended AGM a month earlier than usual, I cannot believe a year has passed already since the last one! And what a year it's been. Our apiary is now up and running, with two active hives, which are already working hard, as they came already with around 25,000 bees covering 22 frames with honey, larvae, pollen etc. We could not find the queens as they were not

marked by the first keeper, who donated them to us sadly due to ill health, (the keeper that is not the bees!), but we know they are in the hives, as we can see the workers entering the hive with their laden pollen baskets on their legs! The two hives have plaques on them with the towns in which the Lions groups, who kindly donated them to us, are situated, being – 'WESTBURY HIVE' and 'TROWBRIDGE HIVE'. The other town hives will be added later as and when we receive new colonies.

Luck has it that our bees are very friendly, whilst we were fumbling about around them lifting the frames which were covered in bees for the first time. They behaved impeccably! I suppose it's like any of the stock on the farm, dare I say it, being very woman orientated here I am sure it has a calming effect!

The Riding for Disabled is very busy as usual. We are using the carriage track nearly every day, with the training of carriage driving, this has certainly been a success, The students who attend us through the



week, have now broken up for the summer holidays. This is my chance to do a lot of ground work with our new horse Logan. Using the carriage track, I will be able to long rein Logan and prepare him for the carriage. I have decided to keep a training diary of our progress, so I will keep you up to date on how it goes, with lots of photo' going on the website.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the RDA, especially for when the students come back!

Last month, two of our riders who have been at the farm for a few years, attended the Warminster RDA Gymkhana, at the Warminster Saddle Club, for the first time since the group formed, The two riders were Damian Chilcott and Ben Wride, riding Eros and Clipper. Each rider came away with four rosettes each and were both presented with a certificate at the AGM this year. Photos of them at the show are also on the website

[www.larkrisefarm.org.uk](http://www.larkrisefarm.org.uk)

*Wendy Self, Farm Manager.*

*Photo: Geoff Watkins*

## The Huggy Panorama - Rood Ashton



*Photographer Huggy just caught the fleeting moment with this lovely photo of Rood Ashton*

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## Locomotive “Rood Ashton Hall” returns to familiar



**T**hese are the latest pictures of the engine taken at Temple Meads station at the end of April on a rail tour called the Cornishman which ran from Birmingham to Plymouth. In her heyday, she was stationed in Bristol for many years.

*Geoff Watkins.*





*n. His photo of Rood Ashton Lake in the last edition received widespread praise.*

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## **territory**



## West Ashton School

It always amazes me how fantastic the world is and I often find myself wondering what would happen if Humans no longer existed. Would the world continue without a blink? My musings turned that way again in July, when I finished my first academic year at West Ashton School. Having joined the school in January I spent most of the academic year running to keep up with a whole host of events, appointments and surprises that flew my way. We faced play performances, sports practices and races, exciting trips and the inevitable goodbyes to our leavers. That was all in the last couple of weeks! Once it was all over though and we sat back at the end of another West Ashton year (its 165<sup>th</sup> approximately!) and wondered with amazement how we had managed that, how it had all fitted together and flowed so successfully and (I personally) made a mental note that it would be less hectic next time.

It is amazing how the prospect of a five-week 'almost rest' can inspire great hope. I wondered if this was why West Ashton coped so well at the end of its 165<sup>th</sup> year. The changes that the school has experienced over that time are immense; the revolution of electricity, communications, population explosion, world wars, nuclear invention, the massive expansion of the village to accommodate so many of the houses that are now so proudly protecting the villages rights; the list goes on and on... The school has faced them all, embraced them and kept going forward. But then if you come back to our little school, nestled in the heart of the village, watched over serenely by the church (one of the oldest buildings, relatively, in the village) and read the plaque on the green door at the front of the school you become grounded in realisation that many children have passed through our school, leaving a little bit of them behind and taking a little bit of the history with them to support them as they move forward. The future is inevitable and a little scary because

it is the unknown but the past is secured and grounded and if we use the knowledge of it, we too can gain security and confidence to go forward.

Hundreds of children and parents have passed through the green door in the last 165 years, during wartime and peace and, because of that, the door will remain part of our school; metaphorically shepherding hundreds more children through the building with its message from the foundation of our school – Christian teaching. Headteachers come and go and so do villagers and pupils, but the constant is our school, offering a good start to local children into whatever future they face with the confidence of Christ at it's heart; the little highs and lows we face in one term or one year are blips on the surface of the longevity of the School's history, and as long as I don't do anything too ridiculous the school will forgive me any mistakes I make during my very short (relatively) tenure in charge.

Of course I have been in teaching far too long now to convince myself that next year will be any less hectic, despite all my advanced planning, due to the nature of the environment that we work in. But hopefully I will have the wisdom of this years' experience to support me in coping better next time and the security of the building to keep me grounded in the knowledge of what is important and what are just minor blips to be dealt with and then forgotten. I just hope and pray that my tenure at this wonderful old institution gives as much back to the school as being at the school will give to me. Currently I am praying for a solution to cars so that we can all live in harmony without risk to our children and the inconvenience that our current occupants of the village experience. In 165 years will the problem with cars be a blip or will it be the final foe to stop West Ashton in its slow and steady tracks into the future?

*Sam Nash*

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## Thanks

On behalf of Cancer Research UK, I would like to thank everybody who came and supported our Cream Tea event on June 15<sup>th</sup>. A total of £390 was raised to go towards this very worthy cause. *Sylvia Preston.*

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## Parents of West Ashton School (POWA)



We had a very successful **Table Top Sale** back in May which raised over £100 for the school so many thanks if you came along and supported this event! Our **Summer Fete** was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and we were blessed with fantastic weather. The brilliant displays this year were by Trowbridge Zen Judo Club and West Wilts Esprit Gymnastics. We had



Laptop for the school which is already being widely used by the children. We have also bought a special award which will be presented annually. The P.O.W.A Award for 'An Exemplary Role Model'.

We will be holding our annual **"Quiz Night"** on **October 18<sup>th</sup> 8pm** to be hosted by Dr Nash so please come along with a team or individually. Do check out the P.O.W.A noticeboard at school for up to date information or the school website.

*Zoë Collins, Chair*

lots of stalls including nail painting, face painting, a huge tombola, a grand raffle with many wonderful prizes and lucky socks as well as many other attractions such as 'pay once for unlimited play' on our two inflatables (bouncy castle and assault course). We were very grateful to receive support from parents, teachers, school governors and villagers who gave up their time to support our school. Mrs Watkins had a lovely selection of jewellery for sale which raised over £30! Thank you for everyone's help and support. We raised over **£1350!!!**

P.O.W.A has been pleased to purchase a variety of outdoor play equipment and an Apple Mac



### A Children's Quiz

Once again, Audiogo the Home of BBC Books, has donated audio books and large print books as prizes for this competition.

Pre-school to 7 draw or describe their favourite character from a book.

Age 7-11 do a review of their favourite book.

Dr. Who fans to write the brief outline of a plot for a new story.

*Thanks again to Clare Williamson for generously providing the prizes and to Margaret Workman for setting the questions.*

## Danger in the Countryside

**Y**ou may recall the tragic case of one man being trampled to death and another seriously injured after a cattle stampede in a field at Turleigh during May of this year. This was one of many such incidents that have been reported from around the country during recent years.



The man who died at Turleigh was reported to have had a dog with him but this may or may not have been a cause for the incident. Indeed, I can tell you that one of the most frightening experiences of my life was to be chased by a heard of bullocks when quietly walking through fields on the Earl of Lichfield's estate in Staffordshire. Thinking back I literally ran for my life and to this day I am wary of walking through fields where there are cattle.

The Countryside Agency has guidelines as to where you can go and what you can do in rural areas. It points out that when walking through a field containing livestock, move

carefully and quietly, and try to keep a distance from them. They may react to your presence, particularly if you have a dog with you. Cattle are naturally inquisitive and may follow you across a field, and on occasion, especially cows with calves, may react aggressively. Dogs should always be kept on a lead.

If you do encounter an agitated group of cows and feel threatened, you should let go of your dogs lead and move quickly to safety, taking the shortest route to a field exit. Remember to close gates behind you.

*Paul Workman*



### Halloween

#### Family Disco

West Ashton Village Hall

Saturday 26th October - Time 6.30 – late

Children £3.00 Adults FREE

Tickets: Lucy 07952984694 or Emma 07880890505

## Harvest Time

Very soon we shall be having harvest festivals in our churches, at St. John's Church it is at the end of the month, 29<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am, to which you will be very welcome. One wonders what sort of cereal harvest our farmers will have with this prolonged dry period of no rain or very little.

Thinking about harvest reminded me of the following story. Many years ago the Rev. Clifton Robinson, an American minister, decided to plant a matchbox of wheat, about 360 grains, and take note of the harvest. When the crop was ready to be gathered he set the seed aside for sowing the next year. He did this for six years and by that time the 360 grains had developed into a harvest field covering 2,666 acres. What an amazing increase! That year the harvest brought in 66,560 bushels of corn. It was estimated that when turned into flour there would be sufficient to make 2,282,000 loaves of bread. If these loaves could have been placed side by side they would have stretched for a distance of 150 miles, all that from a matchboxful of seed. But the minister had to plant the seed: it would not have been any use leaving it in the box. God can only do His part if man does his. The Rev. Robinson planted his wheat because he was inspired by some words of Jesus in St. John's gospel, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed, but if it dies it produces many seeds." (chapter 12v24) These words follow Jesus saying, "The hour



*A harvest festival flower arrangement by Sue Rawlings. Photo Jo Watkins*

has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." Jesus, was going to die like the grain of seed and through his death produce a rich harvest of people who had trusted in him and become his followers.

As we give thanks to God again at Harvest time for all his goodness and loving kindness during the past year, let us also remember and trust the One who, like a grain of wheat, died so we might have eternal life.

*David Chatterton, Church Warden, St. John's.*

**FOR SALE**

**Apples and plums**

**01225 760368**

## Crime Prevention Advice

### September - Back to School

Most children will be returning to school with new equipment, bags and uniform and it can be an expensive business to replace kit if it is lost or stolen. Making sure that all your child's belongings are indelibly marked with their name, including shoes and trainers, will help reduce misunderstandings around ownership and assist in items being returned should they get lost. Buying high street rather than designer items makes them less desirable to steal and is less likely to cause problems with other children. Many schools have policies around what can and can't be brought into school but if your child is allowed to have a mobile phone at school, make sure it is registered on [Immobilise.com](http://Immobilise.com) and that you keep a record of the IMI number (the 15 digit serial no underneath the battery- can also be viewed by pressing \*#06# on the phone.)

For more information please visit the Wiltshire Police web site on [www.Wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.Wiltshire.police.uk) or contact a Crime Prevention Officer by dialling 101 Think you know something about a crime? Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

### October - Trick or Treat & Fireworks

In recent years, Halloween has become



a major event amongst young people with dressing up, parties and the imported 'Trick or Treat'. It is important to understand the

difference between having fun and behaving in an anti-social manner, and to be aware of the dangers that could be met whilst trick or treating. If children are under 14, it is advised that parents or other adults accompany them and that they only call on houses where they know the residents. Older children should not call on people who display posters asking for NO TRICK OR TREAT. Throwing eggs and other items at houses can, in certain cases, be classed as criminal damage and result in arrest.

Bang after Halloween comes firework night. Fireworks may be pretty when handled by a trained person, but they can cause truly horrific injuries if not handled or used properly. It is an offence for any person under 18 to have a firework in a public place, and for some larger fireworks it is an offence for any person to possess them.

Police will robustly deal with any person breaking the law. There are many well organised community firework events across Wiltshire that provide a fun and safe night out for the whole family.

For more information please visit the Wiltshire Police web site on [www.Wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.Wiltshire.police.uk) or contact a Crime Prevention Officer by dialling 101 Think you know something about a

## Crime Prevention Advice (continued)

crime? Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

### November - Responsible Drinking

Everyone likes to go out and have a good time now and again, and usually that involves alcohol in some way. Drinking responsibly is not only better for your health, but it helps to keep you and your possessions safe. Alcohol consumption dramatically increases peoples tendency to risk take, resulting in pedestrian accidents on the roads, assaults in and around licensed premises and sexual behaviour that is later regretted.

You are also much more likely to be a victim of theft and assaults if you have consumed alcohol. Know your limits and stick to them. If you are going out in a group one person should be the sober friend who makes sure the rest of the group stay safe. Agree that no-one leaves the group, or goes home alone, and make sure that fares home are kept separate from other money. If you are travelling by taxi, book it in advance and wait for the driver to ask for you by name, never get in a vehicle assuming it is your taxi. Don't walk home alone, and always chose a well lit well populated road, even if it means taking a slightly longer route. And remember, drinking and driving don't mix; even a small amount of alcohol can compromise your reactions and decision making ability so it is best not to drink alcohol at all if you are driving.

For more information please visit the Wiltshire Police web site on [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk) or contact a Crime Prevention Officer by dialling 101 Think you know something about a crime? Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

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If I could please make residents and visitors aware of parking issues in West Ashton, Shepherds Drove area. Recently we have had a few issues with vehicles parking too near or on junctions. I must remind people to leave up to 10 meters in and around junctions so there is clear visibility and access in and out of junctions. I understand there may be a number of cars belonging to one household, but please park somewhere sensibly thinking of the other residents.

Security – We have had some lovely weather recently and many of us have been trying to get some air circulating around our homes and even vehicles parked outside our home addresses. Please can I remind people to keep all homes and vehicles secure at all times, and to remove any valuables from sight. We have unfortunately had two break-ins in the West Ashton area so please ladies and gents can we report any suspicious activity, and keep an eye open for each others property.

*PCSO BADDER 6163*

## And the Answers are...

*The answer to 'Guess Who?' in the last magazine was Neil Heard, Bratton Road. The article prompted this response from our publisher Peter Hughes:*

This was my first car too - a BMW Isetta bubble-car. It did indeed have the famous BMW badge on the front, and depending on the model either a 1 or 2-cylinder BMW bike engine in the back. To my complete incredulity, I saw a snippet in a recent *Wiltshire Times* about an auction of rare and exotic cars. Amongst classic Ferraris, Maseratis and Porsches selling for between £30,000 to over £80,000, there was a 1961 BMW Isetta 300, which fetched £21,850. Like Neil's, mine too was left-hand drive, with a gear lever protruding from the side panel somewhere near your thigh, and a bent metal lever on the rear parcel shelf to turn the fuel supply on or off. Mine consumed fuel and oil in roughly equal quantities but, like any first car, the fun factor could never be repeated in subsequent cars. This photo of my Isetta



was probably taken in 1968. Note the white Dulux paintwork and the rally-boy stone guards attached to the bug-eye headlights. You can't see the big-bore exhaust box I attached over the end of the original peashooter design. If I remember correctly, one of the charms of this kind of vehicle was that it is classed as a motor tricycle. This meant that you could drive it on a motorcycle licence, which was possible from age 16. If you had a mate who had passed his bike test then he could accompany you, and you were away and mobile a year earlier than car drivers.

And the Adult Literacy winners were.....  
A tie between Jean Covington and Lis Mercer. First prize will be shared between them.

Answers to adult literacy quiz.

1. Acton, Curren and Ellis Bell.
2. A Tale of Two Cities.
3. Hilary Mantel.
4. Felix Francis.
5. Gervaise Phinn (but on further research could also be Jack Sheffield, so either answer accepted).
6. "Alas, poor Yorick, I knew him Horatio."
7. Christian Jacq.
8. Ian Rankin.
9. Gary Neville.
10. John Grisham.



*Jean Covington and Lis Mercer*

**Class of '62 photo in the last magazine.** David Haines was able to identify the young boy No 7 front row as Christopher Woolley.

## Special Birthday Celebrations - Jean Pakenham

Jean Pakenham was delighted to receive a birthday card from the queen when she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 30<sup>th</sup>. She attributes her longevity to being a vegetarian for nearly 60 years, and



enjoying an occasional glass of champagne and tackling a crossword puzzle. Widely travelled, Jean has led a very full and eventful life, avoiding a brush with the Gestapo when visiting Germany, and being the first to spot Rudolph Hess's aircraft on the way to Scotland when working as a plotter in WW2. In the best of health, and living with her son Henry and his wife Dee Dee in Rood Ashton, Jean was looking forward to a family party later that day to celebrate this special milestone.



*Jo Watkins.*

## Tree Alert

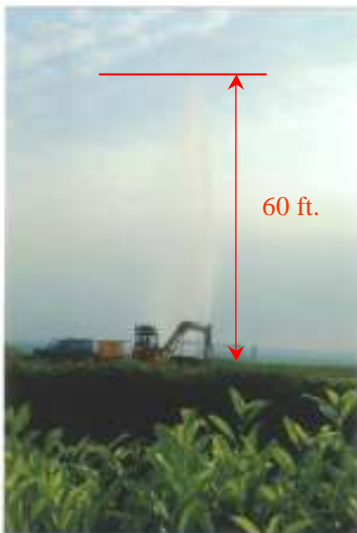
**A**sh dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) is a tree disease that has spread across Europe at an alarming rate since 1992. As the name implies, the disease attacks Ash trees and is caused by a fungus, which leads to blackening of leaves, bark lesions and dieback at the crown of the tree. The Woodland Trust has asked for people to be vigilant and if any of these symptoms are suspected or observed in our area to contact them immediately.

Chalara helpline – 08459 33 55 77  
[Plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

*Paul Workman*



*Photo of a healthy ash tree taken in Sandy Lane by Geoff Davis*



## Waterspout in the Village!

**E**arlier this summer, a small pond appeared in one of the fields at the top of the village. The investigation resulted in a 60 foot water spout from a fractured water main from the nearby reservoir that feeds Bath.

*Photo Betty Cronan*



## In Memoriam - Sonia Perry 1932 - 2013

Sadly our dear neighbour Sonia passed away peacefully on 17th April in hospital following a slow decline in her health over the last few years. She was a very private lady, but I have been blessed to have known her and her late husband Tom and friend Don, over many years. We used to meet regularly at the Lovemead Conservative Club where we all enjoyed a few drinks and had great fun and lively conversations. I did the drawings for an extension on her house in the early 80s, and remember enjoying a very sociable evening while trying to measure up. Goodness how I managed to get the drawings done! In fact Roe and I spent an evening with the three of them discussing the drawings, again with a

glass or two. Ironically some 20+ years later, Roe and I arranged to view a cottage in West Ashton, and as we arrived, it was déjà vu - I knew the next door neighbour! We duly purchased the cottage, and Son became very worried when she was told her new neighbours had four dogs, but she came to love them, and when she used to come down for 'sundowners' on the patio, they always made a great fuss of her.

We will cherish fond memories of her, as I know those of you who were close to her will.

*Neil and Roe Heard.*

## Wiltshire Good Neighbours



A free and confidential service which puts older residents in touch with the services and people that can help them to live more independent lives

News from your Local Good Neighbour  
Co-ordinator

Lise Griffiths – 07584 101092

As I write, the newspapers are full of admiration for Andy Murray and his tremendous sporting achievement in becoming Wimbledon Men's Champion 2013. While we can't all aspire to such heights we can enjoy the benefits of keeping active, even when we are older. Some of the benefits of regular exercise include:

- Helping to reduce the likelihood of suffering from many diseases or helping in the management of existing conditions
- Helping to maintain mobility and balance and reduce the risk of falling

Getting together for activity with others which can be fun and help us feel less isolated

There are a range of exercise groups for older people in the Trowbridge area including chair-based exercise groups, postural stability classes, which are designed to help those who have had a fall or are afraid of falling, and classes which combine chair-based and standing exercises. There is also a Fitness and Friendship Club run by Age UK and a number of informal walking groups.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like more information about this or any other issue affecting older people in our local communities.

T: 07584 101092 E:

[trowbridgegnc@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:trowbridgegnc@communityfirst.org.uk)

**WEST ASHTON VILLAGE HALL  
FUN GARDEN PRODUCE COMPETITION**

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**Bring your entries to the Village Hall between 2:00 – 3:00pm**

**Children's Classes:**

Animal/person made from vegetables, fruits, flowers or seed heads  
Drawing of flowers, a plant or wildlife  
Decorated Cup Cake

**Open Classes to all:**

Heaviest Pumpkin  
Tallest Sunflower  
Largest Sunflower Head  
Heaviest Potato  
Longest Runner Bean  
Mishaped Vegetable/Fruit

Heaviest Marrow  
Longest Cucumber  
Flower Decoration (arranged in an unusual container)  
Cake Competition (set recipe below)

**Swiss Roll (taken from Good Housekeeping Cookery Book)**

**3 eggs**

**100 (4oz) caster sugar**

**100 (4oz) plain flour**

**15ml (1tbsp) hot water**

**Caster sugar to dredge**

**Warm jam**

Line a Swiss Roll tin 33.6 by 22.5mm (13 by 9in). Put the eggs and sugar in a large bowl, stand it over a pan of hot water and whisk until light and creamy; the mixture should be stiff enough to retain the impression of the whisk for a few seconds. Remove the bowl from the heat and whisk until cool. Sift half the flour over the mixture and fold in very lightly, using a metal spoon. Add the remaining flour in the same way and lightly stir in the hot water. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, tilt the tin backwards and forwards allowing the mixture to run over the whole surface. Bake in the oven at 220C (425F) mark 7

for 7-9 minutes until golden brown, well risen and spongy. Meanwhile have ready a sheet of greaseproof paper liberally sprinkled with caster sugar. To help make the sponge pliable you can place the paper over a tea towel lightly wrung out in hot water. Turn the cake quickly out on to the paper, trim off the crusty edges with a sharp knife and spread the surface with warmed jam. Roll up with the aid of the paper, making the first turn firmly so that the whole cake will roll evenly and have a good shape when finished, but roll more lightly after this turn. Dredge the cake with sugar and cool on a cake rack.

**We look forward to seeing your entries on the day and you joining us for the Results and Certificate Presentation at 7:00pm when a licenced bar and food will be available.**

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## Useful Information

### Village Hall activities

|                          |                                                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| ALW School of Dance      | Children inc pre-school, Miss Amy Watts 01225 774849 |
| Ballroom Dancing         | Mr. Kevin Burge 07933 771205                         |
| Bridge classes           | Dave Lacham 01373 467628                             |
| Dance Class              | Dee Dee Wilde – 01380 871608                         |
| Dog Training             | Mrs. Rosemary Banfield 01380 870574                  |
| Dolly Mixtures Art Class | Mrs. Kay Norris 01985 840157                         |
| Tai Chi                  | Mr. Brian Wooding 01985 213474                       |
| Wives Group              | Mrs. Marlene Pike 01380 870272                       |
| WI                       | Mrs. Margaret Moore 01225 767569                     |
| Yoga                     | Mrs. Angeline Nicholson 01225 777452                 |



### Village Hall Bookings Julia Hammond 01225 767258

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Builder</b>                               | Paul. New build, extensions, renovation specialist, alterations.<br>19 Bratton Road Tel: 01225 753997/07799 563347                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Electrician</b>                           | Chris Parnell 01225 764874 or 07875 372940                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Foot Reflexologist</b>                    | Annie Ritchens Tel 01225 752002 Mob 07967630429                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Garden Construction &amp; Maintenance</b> | Michael 01225 760588 Mob 07884 178208                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Good neighbour Co-ordinator</b>           | Lise Griffiths 07584 101092                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Handyman</b>                              | GAS SAFE-registered domestic appliance fitter, painting and decorating, plumbing and other odd jobs Garry Tucker 01225 353268 or 07711 837419                                                                                               |
| <b>Judo Classes</b>                          | Age 8+ W. Ashton School 7.00-8:30pm Fridays. Mike Healy 01373 822349.<br>www.zenjudoclub.co.uk                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Library</b>                               | Mobile Library Van visits Orchard Close alternate Fridays 1.40-1.55pm.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Logs &amp; Marquees</b>                   | Logs for sale/ Marquee hire for all your outdoor events. Rob Pike 01380 870808                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Milk</b>                                  | Bullings Dairies deliver Tel: 01225 776494                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Newspapers</b>                            | Seend Post Office deliver Tel: 01380 828250                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Parish Council</b>                        | Chairman Mr Richard Covington Tel: 01225 761904<br>Clerk Mrs Carol Hackett Tel: 01225 760372                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Police</b>                                | Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Village Co-ordinator Mr David Bradley 01225 754100. Neighbourhood Policing Team PC Mark Hough & PCSO Maria Badder can be contacted on the non-emergency Wiltshire Police tel no 101 or 07528 972 002 for Maria. |
| <b>Private Music Lessons</b>                 | £25 per hr/£14 per half hour, phone Ali 07967 930466                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Refuse</b>                                | Collection days vary - seek local advice. Community skips in Canal Road, Trowbridge for larger items.                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Seamstress &amp; Soft Furnishings</b>     | Clare Humphries, curtains, dressmaking and alterations<br>Tel 01225 767703 Mob 07929 122631                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>St. John's Church</b>                     | Services Sundays 10.30am. Rev Allan Coutts Tel: 01225 754826                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>West Ashton Boomerang</b>                 | 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, afternoon pickup 12.10 return 2pm. Tel 01225 753218 to book. |
| <b>West Ashton C of E School</b>             | Headteacher Dr Sam Nash Tel: 01225 754354                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>West Ashton Ladies Skittles Team</b>      | Mrs. Betty Cronan 01225 755908                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>West Ashton Oil Club</b>                  | Craig Nichols 01225 774476 or email craigmichols@hotmail.com                                                                                                                                                                                |

# Coming Attractions

## What's On in West Ashton

### September

- Wed 4th School, new term starts.
- Wed 4th Wives Group 7.30pm Village Hall. Longleat and Lacock with D. Starkey
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Fun Vegetable/Flower Show. **A Village Hall event.**
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Open Day Jubilee Woods 10-4pm. Scout event
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Open Day Jubilee Woods 10-4pm. Scout event
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> WI, Village Hall 7.30pm. Winter Driving with Peter Russ.
- Sun 29<sup>th</sup> St. John's Church Harvest Festival Service, 10.30am.

### October

- Wed 2nd Wives Group 7.30pm Village Hall. Gardening for Wildlife with R. Cripps.
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Harvest Lunch, Village Hall, 1pm.
- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> WI, Village Hall 7.30pm. Jewellery Making with Yvonne Midgeley.
- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Family Halloween Disco, Village Hall 7pm. Tickets from Lucy Pullen/Emma Pursey.

### November

- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Wives Group 7.30pm Village Hall. The Frome Hoard with D. Crisp.
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Cabaret Night with Richard Clifford. Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm. Licensed bar and raffle. Tickets £12 **A Village Hall event.**
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7.15pm.
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> WI, Village Hall 7.30pm 'Places I've Been Asked to Leave' with Freddie Giles.

### December

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> St. John's Christingle service, 4pm.
- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Wives Group 7.30pm Village Hall. A Christmas Party with party food and drink.
- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Church Christmas Concert, 7.30pm.
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Call My Wine Bluff Evening, light refreshments. Tickets £10. 7.30 for 8pm.  
**A Village Hall event.**

**Tickets : Village Hall events - Sylvia Preston (01225) 765858**

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