



The West Ashton Magazine

Issue 42

March 2014



Photo Holly Westlake

Bathing with Friends...

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



www.westashton.org.uk



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.

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Editorial

We know it's a British trait to go on about the weather, but you just can't escape it. If it's not the incessant rain, it's the storms. No end of damage has been caused by flooding not to mention the destruction of some of our fine ancient trees, so it's heartening to read about all the tree planting that's been going on. There's

no further news either about future work on broadband. Although everything appears to be all doom and gloom, there are articles inside which should hopefully bring a smile to your face, including one written by the children of our village school. Read all about it inside.

Jo and Paul



Photo Ron Pybus

Photo taken in December – and plans are being made to build on this area!

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Parish Council Matters

1. Website

1.1 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>

2. Planning

2.1 The Core Strategy – It appears the inspector is having some difficulty with Wiltshire Council judging by the amount of correspondence between them. Since the hearing the Inspector has identified a number of areas of concern with the Strategy and further work is required which will potentially lead to additional consultation. This could mean the re-opening of the hearings on a limited basis and cannot be ruled out at this stage prior to the submission of the Inspector's Report. The report appears to be few months away not a few weeks as originally anticipated. The latest information can be found at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy/wiltshirecorestrategyexamination.htm> then go to the bottom of the page..

EXAM/34

2.2 Wind Farm – No change and no surprise given 2.1 above. However a word of warning, there has been rash of applications in the East Mendips that is quite worrying. Hopefully the campaign to make the Wellhead Valley in Westbury an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will be an obstacle to the Industrial Wind Turbines proposed.

2.3 Wind Farm and Keevil Airfield Development - The MOD project timetable has slipped while studies are carried out

regarding the use of the TLZ by future aircraft types e.g. C17, A400M. They hope to recommence public consultations in 2014. RAF Brize Norton has commissioned an environmental check on Keevil Airfield. The contractors are drilling on the sites that originally held the underground fuel tanks to ensure that the ground is not contaminated and that the ground water is clean.

2.4 Traffic Light – this appears to have had a positive effect on traffic flow from Bratton Road and approaching from Trowbridge (on the C49). The A350 as we expected still gets congested at peak times.

2.5 Community Speed Watch (CSW) – This volunteer scheme is still operating and appears to be having some success, which I'm sure is helped by early morning cars parked at the top of the village. Our local Neighbourhood Policing Manager, PC Mark Hough continues to support us, attending sessions whenever he is able, offering friendly guidance on the speed limit in the village and issuing speeding tickets when appropriate.

3. Other Matters

3.1 Gypsy / Traveller site on A350 – I'm sure everyone is aware of the activity on site. The Parish Council have been in regular communication with Wiltshire Councils enforcement since 20th December 2013 as have some residents. The land owner appears to be in the process of selling it, which comes as some surprise as the main reason (it would appear) for planning permission was, and I quote: *The personal circumstances of the applicant and his mother have been a significant material consideration that has been taken into account in the decision to grant*

Parish Council Matters (continued)



Photo: Carol Hackett

planning permission for use on this site. If you have any comments that you wish to address to Wiltshire Council may I suggest Mike Willmot, planning officer - Mike.Wilmott@wiltshire.gov.uk or Stephen Hawkins, enforcement officer - Stephen.Hawkins@wiltshire.gov.uk. The Parish Council have also contacted a Wiltshire Council cabinet member and written to Andrew Murrison.

3.2 Defibrillator.... We have all the costs now and by the time this magazine is published we hope to have the defibrillator installed.

3.3 Good Neighbour Scheme. The Community Foundation is an independent charity (registered no 1123126) formed in 1991 and dedicated to strengthening local communities by awarding grants to local charities and voluntary groups in the County of Wiltshire and the Borough of Swindon. Our aim is to make our area a better place to live in, by supporting voluntary and community groups that help people in need to develop their potential and overcome problems and barriers. More Information can be found at <http://www.wscf.org.uk/> and http://www.wiltsgn.org.uk/Areas_Covered/

[Trowbridge Community Area.aspx](#).

Contact (Lise) Tel No. 07584 101092 or email her at

trowbridgegnc@communityfirst.org.uk

3.4 Wiltshire Voices is a project that aims to find new ways of reaching out to people who do not or cannot, attend the council's meetings. Wiltshire Voices aims to do this by talking and listening to local people and recording their stories. There will be a total of 12 projects with each project focusing on a specific group of people who normally struggle to get their voices heard. The website is

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/wiltshirevoices.htm>

3.5 Fly Tipping – I wrote about this problem in the September 2013 issue of the magazine. It still going on, Sandy Lane again, if you see anything suspicious or fly tipped rubbish please call Wiltshire Council on 01225 777234 or email clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk or online on <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/mywiltshirereport.htm> This is can also be used for report 'dog fouling'. The illegal dumping of waste and is a criminal offence. Fly-tippers can be fined up to

Parish Council Matters (continued)

£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 Wiltshire Council operates a chargeable special collection service for bulky items.

3.6 Area Board – There is to be an ‘Older Peoples Area Board Meeting’ on the 27 March in the Civic Hall starting at 10 o’clock and closing at 12:30pm. There will be Stalls, welcome from the chairman and

an exercise warm up.

Topics covered: Citizens Advice Bureau services – Juliet Finch (CAB); Dementia Friendly Communities – Rhian Burgess (WC); Ways of saving money & energy - Lisa Jones (WC); Getting involved in volunteering – Simone Lord (Volunteer Centre Wilts - Develop) & Sue Selwyn Smith a volunteer from Trowbridge Museum

Q&A to panel of speakers; Meeting to close and song from Golden Oldies; Stalls open from 12 to 12:30

*Richard Covington, Parish Council
Chairman*

Village Hall 50 Club Winners

November – 1st Mrs M Davis,
2nd Mr T Hill, 3rd Mrs M Pike

December – 1st Mr Bonome Maciver,
2nd Mr A Davies, 3rd Mrs M Pike

New Year’s Eve – 1st Mr L Richardson
2nd Mr P Hughes, 3rd Mrs S Daniels

Right: Clifford Richard, entertainer at the Village Hall cabaret evening last November.



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MOT Testing

Community Volunteers - Tim le Mare

What is an experienced sailor doing in land-locked Wiltshire? It's because Tim's sister-in-law lives in Trowbridge and he and wife Jo decided to move from Twyford to live nearby 18 months ago. Age 65 and grandfather of three, Tim decided to leave the rat race (not that he was ever part of it) finding that the pace of life in our area is much slower and less aggressive. At sea, he is used to navigating by the stars, and enjoys picking out the constellations in our night sky, something we take for granted, and impossible in Twyford because of the density of the street lighting.

Tim met Jo on a remote Greek island, where he taught holistic sailing which he says is good for the soul, as part of an organisation dealing with alternative types of therapy such as reiki. When he and Jo decided to settle down, he trained as a jeweller, making and designing jewellery. Now working part time building web sites, he is a member of Bradford-on-Avon Sailing Club. He builds his own dinghies, and keeps a 14-foot RS100 which sails at twice the speed of wind, in Castle Cove near Weymouth.



Now gently settling into retirement, and the latest member of our parish council, Tim joined because he wishes to give back to society what has been given to him. Previously a councillor in an urban community for three years, he finds that there is a different emphasis on issues here such as traffic, noise and state of the roads, so quite a change of culture in many respects. Living in Barley Rise near Biss Meadows, he enjoys the beauty of our countryside and being able to drive at night, still navigating by the stars.

Jo Watkins.

Jubilee Wood Scout Camp Site

Looking back over the year, I am amazed by how much has been achieved in so short a time. We are now well on course to open the site in June, a good twelve months earlier than we had envisaged when we started work a little over a year ago.

Whilst the recent rain has prevented us from doing much work outside, it has provided a good test for our new ditches. It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that they seem to be working – the scenes of deep mud and scattered lakes definitely seem to be a thing of the past

As you will have seen when passing by, our field is populated by a sea of green tubes. A surprisingly large number of these now have a tree peeking out of the top, and not a few are six foot or more tall. The recent storms have blown some tubes over and others are looking more than a little tipsy. It will take considerable effort to put this right, but we hope soon to have all looking ship shape again. Sadly, Bambi and his mates are eating the tops out of the trees that we planted in short tubes, so we have a big – and expensive – task ahead to replace these with tall tubes and stakes. There are still a few gaps in our planting and these will be filled this spring.

Our buildings and infrastructure are now nearing completion. The cost of bringing electricity on site would be prohibitively expensive at around £20,000, so we are looking at heating water by means of a wood burning boiler and lighting from solar panels and batteries. This would mean that we would be carbon neutral and would avoid having to include the cost of electricity in our charges for hiring the site.

We have been building a close relationship with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Biss

Wood Volunteers. With the aid of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant we and the Trust are building a new footpath and bridge to link Biss with Green Lane Wood and the new Nature Park to the north of our site. Visitor access to Biss Wood, Green Lane Wood and the new nature park will then be by means of a new entrance in Green Lane and there will be a sign and a map explaining this at the present entrance to Biss Wood.

This spring we hope to complete our new wildlife pond, which will be a dumbbell shape so that scouts can build bridges across without disturbing wildlife, and we can have places for youngsters to go pond dipping without getting too wet. We still have a long list of jobs to do, but that list is definitely getting shorter.

None of this would have been possible without a great deal of effort from a relatively small band of volunteers and donations from a wide variety of individuals and organisations, including a number from West Ashton for which we are very grateful. We have also been very lucky with getting help from local companies, such as Wiltshire Concrete who not only supplied a lorry-load of concrete but also came along to help us lay it.

I was once naive enough to think that once a tree was planted all you had to do was sit back and watch it grow. Needless to say, we are always in need of help and if any readers would like to volunteer I would be delighted to hear from you. We tend to meet at the field one day each week and also on the first Saturday of every month. There is no obligation to stay all day – just an hour or two would be much appreciated.

Whist on the subject of volunteering, Scouting is currently undergoing something of a resurgence. We now have over 800

The Magazine - Looking Back 10 Years Ago

The parish council had long been requesting affordable housing as part of the Manor Farm development (now Shepherds Drove) and was pleased to say that was going to happen as part of the development of 29 houses. However, they were concerned about the road layout as the Planning Officer was still permitting the main exit from the site to come out on to Bratton Road, which could mean as many as 60 cars. The council had requested the exit to come out on to East Town Road with a mini roundabout at its junction with Bratton Road.

WACAP had analysed the village questionnaire. The Activities Focus Group noted that over 40 people had various levels of computing needs. Ron Pybus would co-ordinate

computing events, putting those in need of help in touch with the variety of highly qualified experts in the village. West Ashton's website was set up.

Cyril Sweetman spoke about the ancient Mizzen Maze in the village located perhaps in the grounds of an old house in a field between the top of the village and Flowers Wood, previously known as Mizmaze and constructed by shepherds for their amusement. The footpath from East Town Junction to Kettle Lane runs between Mizmaze and a pond previously known as The Moat, perhaps part of the old house.

The Village Hall whist drive appeared on 'Countryfile'.

Jubilee Wood Scout Camp Site (continued)

young members and about 200 volunteer leaders and helpers divided into 12 Groups spread amongst the towns and villages of what used to be West Wilts. Good news though this growing popularity is, we are finding it hard to take more youngsters on without increasing the number of volunteer leaders and this means that our waiting lists are growing. In particular, the Southwick and North Bradley Groups need someone to help run their Beavers. Beaver Scouts are boys and girls aged 6 to 8 and meet at Southwick on Fridays between 5 and

6.15pm during school term time. Contact Ted Pomeroy 01225 755541 or the present Beaver Leader Rachael Blagden on 01225 774958. More information about Scouting and volunteering can be found at www.scouts.org.uk

We are all looking forward to using the site, as are the pupils from West Ashton Primary School, and we hope to have everything ready by June.

John Cox, Chairman Wiltshire West District Scout Association. Tel 01225 864270

What's in a Name?

March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil' goes the little rhyme, but I hope this month has more to offer than the weather! Looking through my diary I note that there are four special days in March; St. David's Day, Ash Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day and Mothering Sunday. The second and last of these usually feature on the Church of England calendar with special services in church. The saints' days will receive more recognition in Wales and Ireland respectively.

I remember being in a Welsh town on St. David's day some years ago when a lady came up to me and asked if I would I wear a daffodil and have a mince pie. I said that I would wear anything if I could have a mince pie! But on a more serious note, dealing first with the two saints mentioned above, David is from the Hebrew and means beloved. I like my name for that reason and am glad my parents chose it, I hope you like your name! Patrick is from the Latin patricius meaning nobleman. I wonder if you know the meaning of your name and if you have children, what names you chose and why.

Names were originally given because they meant something and we find in the Bible names given to people for that reason. For instance, the name Moses means 'drawer out' because he was drawn out of the water. Jesus gave Simon his disciple the fisherman, the additional name of Peter from the Greek meaning 'rock' as he was to be a pillar or rock of the early church. For Christians, the name that is above all others is Jesus. As John Newton put it, 'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear, it soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds and drives away his fear.'



School children celebrate the Christingle service.

As we approach Easter with the message of the cross and resurrection, we could all do well to consider what place Jesus, the Saviour of the world, has in our life.

David Chatterton, churchwarden.

Did you hear about the homeless man who'd slept overnight in the church porch? One kind villager went home and returned with a full English breakfast wrapped in foil, along with a thermos of tea. The gentleman declined this feast saying he was off to Wetherspoons for a 'proper' breakfast. Sometimes you just can't win

Larkrise Farm News

Reflecting over the past year, and what a busy year it's been! Talking about busy, our new adventure the apiary began in June with our first colony of bees, with the help of very generous local beekeepers in Wiltshire. Hopefully we will have our first batch of honey this year. We have a new addition to the RDA, with the purchase of Logan in May. Also along with the help from Lloyds Bank Community Grant, we were also able to purchase Molly with harness and carriage, who we have had on loan here for a year. The carriage track which was built in the summer has been a real boon to us through the winter. We have been able to turn the horses out there when the ground has been too wet to put them on the fields. Many babies were born last year with the lambs in April and piglets in June. We hope to have the same again this year with hopefully the addition of kids (the four-legged kind I mean) to our Anglo-Nubian nannies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has helped and been



involved with the farm in 2013. We could not carry on without you.

Wendy Self, Farm Manager

Volunteers Needed

Larkrise Farm are always in need of volunteers to help us in our work. If you like the idea of helping our mainly young students, and are confident in working with animals, then please contact either Jenni or Wendy on 01225 751675 to chat over how you could help us. We also need horsey people to help us with our RDA centre, both riding and carriage driving. If you want to find out more about us first, please have a look at www.larkrisefarm.org.uk.

Photos Ashley Wicks

Love at first sight. The farm often has visitors from local retirement homes.



Ladies at Leisure

West Ashton WI

For our November meeting, it was decided to have a social evening with skittles which gave everyone a chance to socialise, which we often do not have the time for. The December meeting was our usual annual extravaganza, the Christmas Party with gourmet buffet supper, and welcoming members from neighbouring WIs.

Our entertainment for the evening was Graham Harding, who luckily only had to travel from Warminster, as the weather was appalling on that particular evening, and hasn't really let up since. As well as playing a pantomime dame, Graham's other speciality was playing the ukulele at which he excelled. He had a wide repertoire of jokes and songs, some of which we were able to sing along to. In addition to our monthly meetings we also have a Busy Bees craft group on the second Thursday of every month in the meeting room at the back of the Village Hall, where it is planned to have a theme to some of the meetings such as learning to make cards and door wreaths as well



Our Christmas theme was 'red', hence the red wig

as knitting and embroidery. One member has even taken her spinning wheel along to give a demonstration. We also take regular trips to the cinema, enjoy meals out and run a lively book group. The new year started with a talk in January 'Life aboard a small yacht' and in February, 'Sleeping in strange beds'. With a mystery trip and outings to look forward to, watch this space. New members are always welcome.

Margaret Moore, president.

Opposite page: Dave Crisp with Wives Group members Eileen Eggleton and Daphne Payne.

Ladies at Leisure (continued)

Wives Group

Our November meeting on the Frome Hoard, gave us an insight into one of the greatest finds of Roman coins with Dave Crisp giving us an account of his once in a lifetime experience. In December we had a jolly party to get us all in the Christmas spirit with carol singing and seasonal readings along with a buffet and glass of wine. Bingo on a wet and windy night helped get 2014 off to a good start.

Sylvia Preston.



Cloth Road Arts Week

2014 will see the sixth Cloth Road Arts week and promises to be the best to date. Nearly fifty venues will be dotted in and around



Trowbridge, Bradford on Avon and Melksham. The nine day free festival of the visual arts in West Wiltshire runs from 3 – 11 May. Look out for free brochures from the beginning of April.

Paul Workman, chairman.

Thanks

Christmas Concert in St John's Church - Jean Robertson and Sylvia Preston would like to thank all those who came and helped in any way to make the Christmas Concert "A Flavour Of Christmas" such an enjoyable event on Friday, 6 December 2013. Our local magical church illuminating experts; providers of mince pies; makers of mulled wine; ticket sellers; Westbury Choral Singers; our trumpet soloist and many more, all made the evening special and set the mode for the festive season. With gratitude to you all.

The school would like to thank villagers for their kind donations for the carol singing. We raised £70 which is being donated to our chosen charity this year, Baraka, to support the Muguramend primary school.

My mother, Winnie Barnes sadly passed away on Tuesday 7th January. I, along with my sister Kim Palmer, her husband Andrew and their children would like to thank everyone for their help and support at this sad time.

Paula Barnes.

Victims of the Storm



This old oak was rumoured to have been planted by Queen Victoria

Another old evergreen oak on what was the Rood Ashton estate.



This conifer in a garden in Bratton Road came crashing down narrowly missing the house. The owners had a lucky escape

A Flavour of Christmas with Westbury Choral

Following a busy day collecting for Christmas, it was a great pleasure to be able to attend “A Flavour of Christmas” at St John’s West Ashton on Friday 6th December. What better way to refresh the soul and enjoy the start of the holiday season than to attend the concert of seasonal music and carols performed by Westbury Choral under the baton of Luke Pickett? The seasonally lit, interior of St. Johns’ made a wonderful setting for a repertoire largely of Christmas Carols and readings with both a traditional and European feel.

The evening opened with a wonderful performance of the 16th Century sacred Christmas carol “Gaudete” made infamous and brought to the greater public attention in the UK by the pop group Steeleye Span in the early 70’s. Kieran Kirk’s trumpet solos were performed with style and added to the variety of the evening’s entertainment in what was a well-balanced programme. As usual Westbury Choral performed brilliantly accompanied by Stephen Cooke on the organ; of particular quality were their performances of the traditional “Sussex Carol” and the Czech folk tune “The Zither Carol” which reminded me of the times I

spent in past Decembers in the Czech Republic.

The varied programme held the congregation’s interest and with Luke Pickett involving the audience to sing the traditional carols of Hark the Herald Angels, O Little Town of Bethlehem, finishing with O Come All Ye Faithful it was very pleasant evening rounded off by their amazing performance of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”.

I hope that we shall be inviting the Westbury Choral Back for Christmas 2014 and will reserve my ticket now.

Graeme Dunn, Bratton Road.

As newly elected president of Trowbridge Lions, Graeme helped with the collection for their Christmas appeal. Trowbridge Lions and members of other clubs in the area were instrumental in setting up the beehives at Larkrise Community Farm.

Photo below of Westbury Choral taken from their website www.westburychoral.org.uk



Sponsored Parachute Jump for WAA



Clive and Julie Edwards owe everything to the Air Ambulance after Clive's father suffered a fall. If it weren't for their care and professionalism in giving John prompt treatment in the 'Golden Hour', he may not have made such a remarkable recovery or even be here today. In order to show their appreciation, Clive and Julie are doing a sponsored parachute jump in April. Please log on to www.justgiving.com/Clive-Jules-Edwards if you would like to donate to this worthy cause and read John's story. Or if you would like to sponsor the good old-fashioned way and pledge money for the jump on a sponsorship form you can

contact Julie at jules@roodashton.com

Above: Back row Julie no 4 and John no 7. Clive front row, right.

Right: John and paramedic Rich who administered life saving care to John.



New Air Ambulance for Wiltshire

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust (WAACT) recently signed a 10-year contract in Swindon with Heli Charter Ltd for a new helicopter, which will come into service at the end of the year, when the lease on the current 12 year old aircraft expires.

After a great deal of deliberation over the last 18 months, the charity's Trustees selected a Bell 429, which is the world's newest and most advanced light twin-engine helicopter in service, equipped with the latest in flight technology. Prior to delivery the aircraft will be fitted out with the most recent Aerolite equipment to meet the highest helicopter emergency medical service (HEMS) specification. The Wiltshire helicopter will be the first Bell 429 to operate as an air ambulance in the UK. It has a top speed of 150 knots and a range of 400 miles making rapid response to any incident within the county achievable within minutes.

Starting in the late autumn of 2014, the contract with Heli Charter covers the provision, maintenance and flying of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance for up to 19 hours a day, every day of the year. It also includes a replacement helicopter to be provided after 5 years. Paramedics and other medical support will continue to be provided by with South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SWAST), with whom the Charity

enjoys a close, efficient and effective working relationship. The charity spent nearly two years reviewing its options as soon as it became clear that the current partnership with Wiltshire Police would terminate, come what may, at the end of 2014, when they are mandated to use aircraft provided by the National Police Air Service.

With advice from consultants, three helicopter providers were shortlisted and invited to tender for the contract. Their submissions were subject to intensive scrutiny and assessment, which led to the selection of Heli Charter which is Bell's UK agent.

The helicopter will be built in Mirabel, Canada in the first half of 2014 before being adapted to air ambulance configuration, which will make it capable of carrying one or two pilots, two or three paramedics as well as a patient on a stretcher. The autumn will see a period of testing and training for the crews in Wiltshire so that the new air ambulance is set to go live by 1 December 2014.

*Taken from the Parish Newsletter
January 2014*

West Ashton School

In Sapphire class last term we learnt about life in the freezer (Antarctica and the Arctic). We learned about non-chronological reports about a chosen animal that lives in the Arctic or Antarctica, such as Emperor Penguins, Beluga Whales and Polar Bears. To be able to do this we learnt the features of non-chronological reports. In maths we learned about column addition, subtraction and long multiplication. To link it back to our topic, we did some temperature work and learnt how cold it is in the Arctic and Antarctica. In science we learned about light and shadows and we went round the classroom testing objects to see if they were translucent, transparent or opaque. We drew pictures of the Northern Lights using chalk and linked them with science by looking at a Newsround video and saw how the northern lights appear in

the sky. In art we made collages of polar animals and mountains, we did a picture of our animal using chalk, some did the same animal; we also did sketches of some other animals in our art books. We looked at some pictures by the famous explorer, Hebert Ponting and sketched them. Not long before Christmas we made spikey snowballs, Santa puppets and 3D snowflakes, pom-poms and glittered snowflakes. Towards the end of the topic we produced a class assembly, which included some drama, to show the rest of the school what we learnt. We all enjoyed the topic and learnt a lot about life in the freezer. We are looking forward to our topic 'Quest for the West' next term.

This article was written by the children of Sapphire Class.



School - Autumn 2013

Archdeacon Ruth, Rev Allan Coutts, Dr. Nash and children in front of the new school sign after the blessing of the new classroom extension.

West Ashton School - Summer 1948



Photo courtesy Marlene Pike

Back row: 1 Joan Harris 2 Ruth Barnett 3 Valerie Sutton 4 Anne Hayward
5 Eileen Griffin 6 Doreen White

Second row: 1 ? 2 Stanley Deacon 3 Howard Silcocks 4 Brian Moore
5 Brian Sweetman 6 ? 7 Dennis Griffin 8 Johnny Webb 9 Peter Marshman
10 Roger Blissett

Third row: 1 ? 2 ? 3 Christine Beard 4 ? 5 Coral Piper 6 Sylvia Griffin

Front row: 1 Richard Oatley 2 Kenny Sweetman 3 Brian Berrett, 4 Terry Bull

Wanted at School...

Have any villagers memories about West Ashton from theirs or their parents' lives that they would like to share with the children? In the summer we are going to be looking at our local history and I would like it to come to life with tales of real adventures or memories. If any of the parishioners wanted to come in and just chat to the children (with a tea, coffee or biscuit) that would also be something I am very keen to achieve.

Dr. Sam Nash, Headteacher.

Parents of West Ashton School (POWA)



Our Christmas Fair was a fantastic success raising over **£700!!!** Huge thanks to everyone who helped or attended. It is always lovely to see villagers enjoying what we have on offer and getting involved.

P.O.W.A is delighted to finance a brand new kitchen at West Ashton Primary School which will be paid for with funds raised from previous years' events as well as a wonderful donation of £250 from Persimmon Homes. The new kitchen will enable the children to cook and create at school and cooking clubs will be available. We are very excited about this project and know it will offer the

children opportunities they may not have at home. We hope to begin the works very soon so look out for photos soon on our website!

Take a look at our noticeboard or website for our events during 2014 and remember you are always very welcome to come along or suggest ideas.

<http://www.westashton.wilts.sch.uk/>

*Very best wishes
Zoë Collins, Chair, Parents of West Ashton.*

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Are you 'someone who, without payment, provides help and support to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour who could not manage without their help. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, substance misuse, eating disorder or disability'.* Caring can take many forms and can include helping with personal things such as getting someone dressed, helping them move about or giving medicine. Caring also includes helping around the home with shopping, laundry, cleaning and cooking. A Carer can also help and support by filling in forms or managing money. If you are in this position, there are many sources of help, support and advice available to you. I can provide you with information and direct you to the organisations who can help you in your caring role.

*Carer Support Wiltshire literature

Ask me about:

Assessments of Carers' Needs

Prescription breaks- £50 for you to spend on yourself!

The Carer's Emergency card and the Wiltshire Passport

Carers Allowance and benefits checks

Carer Support Wiltshire's services including advice from a support worker, counselling, befriending, support groups and much more

Free alternative therapies for carers

For more information please call Lise Griffiths, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator for a free and confidential chat on 07584 101092 or email

trowbridgegnc@communityfirst.org.uk.



Community Tree Planting Day

Despite the wet and windy conditions fun was had by all planting the 420 saplings at the Recreation Area in Shepherds Drove back in November, which in time will create a new hedge around some of the site. The saplings had been gratefully received from the Woodland Trust along with stakes and protective covers, and one of their local volunteers, Brian, very kindly joined us during the morning to offer his advice and support planting the trees. It was lovely to see local families coming along to help with the planting. The children planted their trees near to the new play equipment which had recently been installed, and attached labels to



Ruby & Emily Hubbard planting their trees

the trees with their initials on, so that they can keep an eye on how their trees are growing over the coming months, whenever they come and play in the Area.



Carol Hackett, Margaret Workman & Brian Drummond

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this event, which will hopefully in the future provide a haven for wildlife, and help enhance the Recreation Area for the benefit of the whole community now and for generations to come.

Margaret Workman & Carol Hackett (on behalf of West Ashton Parish Council)

No Longer a Postage Stamp



As some of you may have been aware, there has been a lot of activity at the Old Post Office last year as we set about our new adventure of having an extension built and internal alterations to our home. We first moved here in February 2006, the 2 of us and Trigger the dog, then along came Orla in 2008 and Ella in 2010 which meant our home was becoming a little bit of a squeeze. So in April last year, the builders started, giving us an extra bedroom and a much bigger kitchen and dining area, whilst still leaving most of the original features which

we fell in love with when we bought it. We couldn't be happier and the girls love the extra space, without reducing the garden too much. The build went smoothly and the weather couldn't have been better for the builders. We did discover two small brick tunnels a few meters away from the original back of the house, as shown in the photo, if anyone has any ideas what these are, we would be really interested to hear your thoughts.

Kelly Cook, Bratton Road.

Footnote: Suggestions so far include old limekilns or ovens.

West Ashton - Taking the Waters

West Ashton Mineral Water. An article in Gentleman's Mag., April 1905, p. 392, on Charing Cross and its immediate neighbourhood contains the following paragraphs:

During the rage for mineral waters, those of the West Ashton Mineral Well, near Trowbridge, in Wiltshire, discovered in the year 1731, were to be had of the sole vendor in London, Daniel Gach, Druggist, at the King's Arms, near Craven Street, in the Strand. By drinking and washing with this water more than 100 Persons have been already cured of Wounds, from one to

upwards of twenty years standing, of Scorbutical Eruptions, of sore Eyes, sore Breasts, the Leprosy, and the King's Evil. N.B.—Lodgings may be had at the same place (? West Ashton) and in the Town of Trowbridge within one mile and a half Distance. The Water is also sold in Bristol by Mr. Grip, Printer; in Salisbury by Mr. Carent and Mr. Light; in Bath, by Mr. Horton, apothecary, near the Abbey. No other correspondence is yet settled. See London Evening Post, 10 May 1733 *Steve Lovering sent in this article – wonder if there's a connection with the item above?*

Family Christmas Party



*Father Christmas (aka Neil Heard), Roe Heard, Ellie Pullen
It looks as if the adults enjoyed the party just as much as the children.*

On Friday 20th December 2013 West Ashton village Hall put on a family Christmas party with a special guest Father Christmas! A great time was had by all. A big thank you to Frosty the donkey who helped Father Christmas on the night. Special thanks to Claire Humphries, Neil Heard, Des, Kevin Pullen, Roe Heard, Ellie Pullen, Charlotte

Pullen, Kate Hobbs, Emma Pursey, Rachel Hobbs and Vaughan Nichols. This event would not have been made possible without your hard work and support. You missed a good night,

Lucy Pullen

Spotlight on - Mischa Jardine

With musical parents, it comes as no surprise that Mischa has inherited their talents. Living in Orchard Close with father Mike, Rosanne and sister Tilly (an up and coming trumpet player and violinist) Mischa recently performed at the prestigious London venue 'The Barbican' as one of the closing acts of the London Jazz Festival 2013.

Mischa's performance at the festival was as a result of an invite to attend a "Big Band in a day" workshop for 12 to 17 year olds at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London; this culminated in a solo performance in the club in the evening in front of a paying audience of about 300 people. Although only 13 years old Mischa was selected as the best singer and was invited to represent the "Ronnie Scott's All Stars" on the afternoon of Sunday 24 November at the London Jazz Festival held in the Barbican. Accompanied by a jazz band of 12-17 year olds Mischa performed in front of an audience of nearly 800 people, after only one morning rehearsal. Afterwards Mischa was interviewed on Ronnie Scott's radio show as well as the London Jazz Festival's radio station and subsequently congratulated by Liane



Carroll, a past winner of Jazz Musician of the Year. Mischa says that this was an amazing opportunity and that she loved every minute of it.

It must have taken some time to come down to earth after this once in a lifetime experience.

Jo Watkins

From the Archives



This year is the centenary of the start of World War 1

On the reverse of this photo is written 'Rood Ashton Troup different now than what used to be, hope this will find you in the pink C.R.H.C.' Tim Neate who has researched the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, states that the Officer (Troop Commander) is at the back in the centre. For many years a brass plaque presented by Viscount and Viscountess Long was displayed in the Village Hall commemorating a new heating installation and also in memory of their son Brigadier General Walter Long, killed in action January 28th, 1917. Would this

officer be him? If anyone has any more information about this photo or can provide names, please get in touch.

Photo courtesy of Steve Lovering

Last Year's West Ashton Poppy Appeal - Jackie Bradley and her team collected a total of £168.23. Thanks also to West Ashton School, Larkrise Community Farm and the party-goers at the Village Hall Hallowe'en party for their help towards this total

Pan's People New Book Launch

From 1968 to 1976 Pan's People captured the hearts of the nation when they danced, week after week, on Top of the Pops. Long before the advent of music videos, Pan's People would dance to records when an artiste couldn't appear on the programme and they soon became more famous than some of the bands whose records they danced to. By the early 1970's, Pan's People had become a household name and quickly built up a fan base - girls wanted to emulate them and their fathers and brothers switched on every week just to watch them perform. But Pan's People were more than just a dance troupe. They were six individual girls and each had their own story to tell. Here, for the first time, is their story, told by the girls themselves, in their own words.



Dee Dee Wilde (above), a founder member of the group, who lives locally said 'I'm very excited that we finally got this together. It's taken us almost 40 years! All the girls in my dance classes wanted a copy and so far everyone who's read it has given me great feedback on its contents'.

Pan's People: Our Story, published by Signum Books. Available from all major book stores"

If you are interested in buying a copy and haven't been able to, please contact Dee Dee on: deedewildechil@hotmail.co.uk

Dee Dee holds her dance classes on Mondays at Bradford on Avon Rugby Club, Winsley 10.45am: Tuesdays West Ashton Village Hall at 1030am: Wednesdays Steeple Ashton Village Hall, Church Street at 10.30am.

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 01380 870224 or email westashtonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

Builder	Paul. New build, extensions, renovation specialist, alterations. 19 Bratton Road Tel: 01225 753997/07799 563347
Electrician	Chris Parnell 01225 764874 or 07875 372940
Foot Reflexologist	Annie Ritchens Tel 01225 752002 Mob 07967630429
Garage Services	Briken Motors Garage....MOTs, servicing etc, Tel 01225 755203
Good neighbour Co-ordinator	Lise Griffiths 07584 101092
Handyman	GAS SAFE-registered domestic appliance fitter, painting and decorating, plumbing and other odd jobs Garry Tucker 01225 353268 or 07711 837419
Judo Classes	Age 8+ W. Ashton School 7.00-8:30pm Fridays. Mike Healy 01373 822349. www.zenjudoclub.co.uk
Library	Mobile Library Van visits Orchard Close alternate Fridays 1.40-1.55pm. Next visit 28 th February; 14 th March etc
Logs & Marquees	Logs for sale/ Marquee hire for all outdoor events. Rob Pike 01380 870808
Milk	Bullings Dairies deliver Tel: 01225 776494
Newspapers	Seend Post Office deliver Tel: 01380 828250
Parish Council	Chairman Mr Richard Covington Tel: 01225 761904 Clerk Mrs Carol Hackett Tel: 01225 760372
Police	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.
Refuse	Collection days vary - seek local advice. Community skips in Canal Road, Trowbridge for larger items.
Seamstress & Soft Furnishings	Clare Humphries, curtains, dressmaking and alterations Tel 01225 767703 Mob 07929 122631
St. John's Church	Services Sundays 10.30am. Rev Allan Coumts Tel: 01225 754826
West Ashton Boomerang	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 0800 371297 to book.
West Ashton C of E School	Headteacher Dr Sam Nash Tel: 01225 754354
West Ashton Ladies Skittles Team	Mrs. Betty Cronan 01225 755908
West Ashton Oil Club	Craig Nichols 01225 774476 or email craigmichols@hotmail.com

Coming Attractions

What's On in West Ashton

March

Wed 5th

Wives Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm. Flying for Life, with Dr. A. Steele.

Sat 8th

Skittles evening, Village Hall v Church. Tickets £5 to include Ploughman's supper. 7.30 for 8pm. **A Village Hall event.**

Sun 9th

Bar open for Live Coverage of Six Nations Rugby- England v Wales. **A Village Hall event.**

Wed 19th

Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.15pm.

Wed 26th

WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm Annual General Meeting.

Sun 30th

Church Mothering Sunday service 10.30am.

April

Wed 2nd

Wives Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm. Graphomaniac with J. Jameson-Davis.

Sat 5th

A Somerset Evening, live music, 3 course meal. 7.30 for 8pm Tickets £12. **A Village Hall event.**

Sun 13th

Palm Sunday, 10.30am in the church, Service of the Word.

Fri 18th

An Hour by the Cross, in the church 2pm.

Sun 20th

Easter Sunday Communion Service. 10.30am in the church.

Wed 23rd

WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm. Enamelling on Copper with Lesley-Anne Meaton.

May

Wed 7th

Wives Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm. Music and Mirth with M and J Craig. Also drinks and food.

Sun 18th

Sunday Lunch, 12.30 for 1pm. Tickets £12.

A Village Hall event.

Wed 21st

Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.15pm.

Wed 28th

WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm. Topical Issues with fish and chip supper

June

Tue 3rd

Wives Group Annual Outing