



The West Ashton Magazine

Issue 43

June 2014



Clive and Julie
Edwards
sponsored
parachute jump
for Wiltshire Air
Ambulance.
See article on
page 3

**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

Most of us have accepted the fact that the fields between the village and Trowbridge are slowly being swallowed up by vast new housing estates. The 2,600 houses forecast is now likely to rise by another 950. It has come as a surprise that there are not only plans for new houses and schools, but also a football ground, an indoor soccer centre with outdoor sports, ten pin bowling, a hotel and an indoor soft play centre. This will certainly add to

a choice of amenities available to the area. Read more about 'expanding Trowbridge' inside. Pumpkins should be planted by the time you're reading this in readiness for the Village Hall fun produce show, if not, there's still time if planted now. Whatever you're doing, don't forget to take time out to enjoy your gardens, stop and smell the roses, and cherish and enjoy the countryside around us.

Jo and Paul.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Sky Dive 12th April '14

Well we did it. Nothing can quite prepare you or describe what you are about to experience. Clive made the most of every second and informed his instructor to do whatever he wanted. Suffice to say they somersaulted and did acrobatics in the air so much so that even though he was fourth out of the plane, he landed at the same time as the first one out! I on the other hand was not quite so adventurous although I did do a few spins in the air after my instructor asked if I wanted some fun, but decided to stop after feeling just a wee bit nauseous. It was the most thrilling yet terrifying experience of my life. We had a wonderful day with our families there to support us including John (Clive's

Father) who after all is the reason we were there - to thank WAA for saving his life and raise vital funds to keep the air ambulance in the air.

Thanks to every single one of you who donated and supported us. Clive and I hit our personal target and raised £15,000.

Something we could not have done without our amazing friends, family and the village support.

We hope you or your loved ones never need to call upon WAA however if you do you can be proud that you supported them by sponsoring us. Thank you,

Julie Edwards, Rood Ashton.

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Parish Council Matters

1. Website

1.1. The West Ashton Parish Council website has not been updated recently apart from the magazine thanks to Dewi. We hope to add new information by the time this magazine is published.
<http://www.westashton.org.uk/parishcouncil.htm>

2. Planning

2.1. The Core Strategy

* As reported in the March issue of the magazine, the inspector continues to have difficulty with Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy. There is yet another consultation about the wind farm separation distance and, I suspect to come, the increase in the number of houses, another 950 from the original 2600.

http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/spatial_planning/wcs/wiltshire_core_strategy_proposed_modifications_april_2014

* Westbury Bypass – Wiltshire Council wanted to retain this (Policy T1A) the inspector has stated it should be removed. Article in Wiltshire Times 25/4/2014

2.2. Wind Farm – As mentioned above the inspector has recommended removal of the separation distance, which was introduced by Wiltshire Council and endorsed by a majority vote of the whole council. This leaves residents with little protection from the developers profiting from the very substantial subsidies, which costs us all on our energy bills. Amplitude Modulation, that low

frequency whoosh and thump caused by the spinning blades is a proven function of distance and I'm sure it was in the councillor's minds to set some distance safeguards for this very reason.

2.3. Keevil Airfield Development (Wind Farm) - The project timetable has slipped while studies are carried out regarding its use by aircraft types e.g. C17, A400M. RAF Brize Norton has commissioned an environmental check on the Airfield but it is hoped to recommence public consultations in 2014.

2.4. Community Speed Watch (CSW) – This volunteer scheme is still operating and appears to be having some success and with the added focus by Wiltshire Constabulary and the Commissioner this should continue. Drivers stopped could be in for a bit of a shock when the community police officer is able to attend, it's now £100 and a three points for travelling too fast. If anyone would like to join the team please contact Carol Hackett, the Parish Council clerk.

3. Other Matters

3.1. Gypsy / Traveller site on A350 – After the permission granted in 2012 for one family etc etc the site has been sold on so... Now we have another planning application to vary the permission to anyone who qualifies as a Gypsy / Traveller and to double the size of the site. In the meantime without planning approval, development and occupation of the site by a different family continues unabated. For those with access to the

Parish Council Matters (continued)

- internet the application is 14/01798 and can be found at:
<http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx> The Parish Council has submitted robust reasons for refusal and has been ably assisted by a qualified local resident. The consultation has now closed but feel free to email or write to Mike Willmot, planning officer - Mike.Wilmott@wiltshire.gov.uk or Stephen Hawkins, enforcement officer - Stephen.Hawkins@wiltshire.gov.uk .
- 3.2. Defibrillator.... The defibrillator has been delivered; it now needs to be installed.
- 3.3. Fly Tipping – Just a reminder, any observed fly tipping 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>
- 3.4. Roundabout on the C49 (road into Trowbridge) – It appears the work has stopped because the tarmac surfacing machinery is too large for the roundabout without closing the road. So... there's a seven week delay (from 11/4/2014 approx) whilst permission is sought from Wiltshire Council to temporarily close the road. Is this Ealing comedy stuff, reminds me of the 7Ps – laugh out loud.
- 3.5. Broadband – No update for now but have contacted the Wiltshire Council rollout team.
- 3.6. Hawkeridge – Business Park proposal for Hawkeridge, there is the very likely increase in traffic from it (Mill Lane) to Yarnbrook and on to the A350 and of course to Trowbridge on the C49 to the new roundabout along the Eastern Distributor Road to Castle Mead and onward. WWW.HAWKERIDGE.ORG
- 3.7. Wilts Council News Letter
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/parishnewsletterhome.htm>
- 3.8. PCLG – Parish Council Liaison Group – A grouping of parish councils that meet quarterly to jointly focus on issues affecting us and influence Wiltshire Council's decisions.
- 3.9. There is a festival held to be held somewhere on Grange Farm from 18th to 20th July, a long weekend. Expect Loud Music, the parish council was not consulted.
- 3.10. Parking near junctions – There have been a few complaints about parking near to junctions so it's a worth a reminding ourselves. The Highway Code states DO NOT stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. Police will deal with any incidents of unnecessary obstruction and can issue tickets or have vehicles removed if required.
- 3.11. Wilts Fire Brigade is offering a free service to check home smoke alarms and answer any of your queries. Ring 0800 3897849.

*Richard Covington, Parish Council
Chairman*

Expanding Trowbridge

We may have very mixed feelings about the expansion of Trowbridge ever closer to West Ashton and Yarnbrook, but it seems it is happening whether we like it or not! As vicar of a large Trowbridge parish, as well as West Ashton, I may have a slightly different perspective on this. One of the frustrations for me is that the town already demands most of my time and attention making me feel a bit of an outsider in the village. As a result, I am not able to give West Ashton parish anything like the degree of attention it would ideally merit and this pressure can only increase as the town grows.

Like many of you, I am a lover of the countryside, having grown up in it, and hate to see agricultural land swallowed up by tarmac and bricks. However, there may also be benefits for us all in the growth in the size and importance of Trowbridge. Over the last few years, both the Civic Hall and County Hall have undergone major redevelopment as 'flagship' governmental and community buildings. In between these, a new cinema, restaurant and hotel complex has just opened. Further redevelopment of former industrial sites in the town is proposed and new 'brown field' housing development is springing up all over the place, including on my own doorstep at St Thomas! All this gives the feel of a town that is 'on the up' which will hopefully also attract new industry and employment into the area.

If growth brings increased prosperity and jobs to the area, it will be good for everyone but it will also bring many challenges. Will the infrastructure be sufficient to cope with increased population? Will our area lose its rural character and start to feel increasingly urban or suburban? For the Church of



England, there is the question of how to provide pastoral ministry for ever larger numbers of people and whether historic parish boundaries need to be redrawn to make sense of a changing landscape.

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote to the Israelites living in exile in the city of Babylon, '*Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*' (Jeremiah 29:7) Babylon was a place of much evil, but God's people are still commanded to pray for God's blessing on it. Whatever we feel about the 'city' we live on the edge of, we should do the same.

Allan Coutts

Thoughts from a Village Lad.

Regarding The Old Post Office article in the last magazine, this is only a thought, but I think that the brick structures in the photo are where the fires were lit under the coppers in the wash houses.

I used to go for Sunday tea with the old postmistress, Miss Mead, when I was about 7 or 8. I remember a row of wash houses and outside privies along the back of the rank of cottages, which in the 1800s was a private school where the children of the upper classes boarded. I remember talking to one of the Mr Griffins, a relation of Mrs. Sylvia Mills who lived in the cottage where Sylvia now lives. He said his mother was the housekeeper of the school which took up the whole rank except for the red brick cottages on the upper end. Mr Griffin lived there with his brother and they must have been in their eighties in the 1960s.

Regarding Miss Mead - she was a spinster who ran the post office in the '50s and '60s and had taken it over from her mother who had run it for many years before. Miss Mead was godmother to my friend Chris Williams and that's how we came to go there for tea some Sundays and at



Christmas we used to go there for a party.

With suggestions ranging from limekilns, ovens and beehives, Kelly has since told us that although the structures were not demolished, a retaining wall is now hiding them. She was given a book about old buildings with a picture of an old outside toilet. The archways would have been where the buckets were placed, so there was easy access for taking them out and putting them back. Inside the building there would have just been a wooden bench with a hole over the bucket – so mystery solved. A resident remembers taking a parcel to the post office for posting to America, only to be told that ‘we don’t do that sort of thing here, you’ll need to take it to the post office in Trowbridge’.

Jubilee Wood Scout Camp Site

Our list of jobs to do is definitely getting shorter as the days tick past towards our official opening and Fun Day on 14 June.

We are hoping that most of our 800 or so young members in the 12 Scout Groups that make up the Wiltshire West District will attend and have a thoroughly enjoyable day. To get over the shortage of parking and road safety issues Chandlers Coaches are helping us by running a Park & Ride scheme between Nutricia's car park on the White Horse Business Park and the site and we shall be running a host of activities designed to encourage our young members to use the facility wisely in future years. Visitors will be by invitation only and we are asking all those that have helped us in one way or another to bring this exciting project to fruition to come along and share the fun and see what we have achieved.



With the help of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have mounted a joint project with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

Amongst many items, this is funding new arrangements for access to Biss Wood and the provision of signs explaining these. The plan is to invite visitors to Biss Wood to use the Green Lane Wood car park and then to walk through to join a new footpath leading into the new nature park, crossing the Black Ball Brook by a new footbridge and into Biss Wood at the northern end, under the pylons.

This project will also deliver information boards for our interpretation centre and a new wildlife pond. Progress on the pond and the footbridge has been slowed by the unexpected requirement to seek planning permission, but we hope to be able to start work soon.

John Cox

Thanks

Many thanks from Cancer Research UK committee to all of you who came and supported our big breakfast in February when over £1,000 was raised.



Side-Saddle Champion



Spending a lot of my time with my horses, which I have done since a child, I have competed in county level shows, team chasing, cross-county, and sponsored rides. I started side saddle three years ago as I wanted a new challenge and to try something different. My horse Tink took to this like a duck to water and what a great horse he has been. Last year 2013 I joined the Side Saddle Association, and from there I competed around several counties in

horse shows, cross-county, and sponsored rides. From each event I gained points and had some fantastic winnings. At the end of the year Tink and I became Champion Newcomer, Hunt Champion and 2nd Overall throughout England - what amazing results!

PCSO Maria Badder

Walking the Walk

Now that we've all dried out (from the soaking that was the winter) it's time to get outside again. The day we chose to resume our monitoring of the West Ashton Parish footpaths couldn't have been better - almost perfect English Spring, the sort of day that we recall from years ago and think that possibly we'd never see again! Wednesday 16 April and we chose to walk towards East Town across the fields east of Bratton Road. Giving a calm and wide berth to a small herd of cattle, we descended the first slope of path 1 to the first kissing gate. A number of kissing gates has been installed to replace decaying stiles along West Ashton footpaths in recent years, and they are so much easier to negotiate. Up the slope of the next field, we had our first encounter with wild life – a pair of skylarks, startled by our progress, they quickly ascended to hover above and commence their distinctive twitter.

It is a constant wonder that the seasons appear as regular as clockwork. However perhaps an indication of, as it is sometimes reported how things are changing in nature, we observed something unusual. Encouraged by the sun and amongst a countless number of other



Yes - but where is it?

flying insects, there were a variety of butterflies. Our ageing copy of *The Observer Book of Butterflies* states that the first brood of small tortoiseshell butterfly should emerge in June. Yet here, as we moved through the fields, we saw very many of them, along with peacocks, small whites (possibly), orange-tips (usually emerging in May) and yellow brimstones. These early appearances may hopefully signify a strengthening of the butterfly population.

The purpose of monitoring is to make sure that footpaths, stiles/kissing gates and way-markers are in good order, shame it is to report this time though, that some of the paths have been cropped over, thus necessitating detours around the edge of some fields.

Paul and Margaret Workman

Larkrise Farm News

It has been a couple of very busy months on the farm, having just finished lambing with a total of 29 lambs! Also Porgy has had 12 piglets, and April saw the arrival of two Mediterranean miniature donkeys, Maddie and Petal. They have been given to us on loan with a view to buy, and already have made a big hit with all the visitors we have already had visiting the farm. Bess our other sow has produced 13 piglets, and two of our nannies have now had their kids - a first since moving from the old farm.

Back in March, Larkrise exhibited at the Somerset Game Fair at Shepton Mallet. We were invited once again by the Somerset Smallholders and set up an area with small animals and promotion material on the farm and Larkrise RDA.

Three nursing homes have been visited by our animals in Westbury,



Trowbridge and Warminster, the residents thoroughly enjoyed the petting of the animals and even having the chickens and rabbits sitting on their laps.

Our Town Crier Trevor has kindly donated a wonderful table and benches, and a bench seat to the farm. We have situated this outside the front of the farm, but we do take it in at night!

Larkrise RDA are holding a Tack Sale at the farm on Saturday 21st June after Saturday Club, where we will be opening the farm up to tack sellers and also giving the public an opportunity to look around the farm and see what the Larkrise RDA group does. If anyone is interested to sell on the day, please contact Wendy Self on 01225 751675.

Wendy Self, Farm Manager.



Ladies at Leisure - West Ashton WI

January's meeting in the Village Hall was a talk by Rosie Evitt on her experiences sailing on a small yacht. Normally Rosie delivers her talk dressed in a bikini and wrapped in a sarong, but as it was a bit chilly that evening she had dressed appropriately for the weather. Rosie spent 4 years travelling across the Atlantic, around the Caribbean and up the East Coast of America as far as New York. She and her sailing partner left New York the day before the attack on the Twin Towers, and they were subjected to many stoppages and questioning by the military security personnel in the days following the attack. Rosie eventually returned to dry land and has written a book about her adventures. February's meeting was not the scheduled talk as our speaker had cancelled but two of our members had recently attended a WI speaker's day and were able to secure a new speaker from Corsham - Ged Fitzgerald, who talked about internet security. Seven visitors joined us for a most informative evening and even those who did not use a computer were given advice on how to cope with unsolicited phone calls. Those of us who do use computers and mobile phones also gleaned much valuable information on how to keep ourselves safe and secure online. Our dinner club had a very enjoyable evening at the Three daggers in Edington, with mixed views on the food, and the cinema group



Retrieving key rings from the kiln.

has visited the new Odeon complex in Trowbridge to see the Book Thief. March was our AGM and it's all change at the WI with a series of six president's taking it in turn to chair our monthly meetings. The evening concluded with a Beetle Drive which was won by Frances Uphill. At our April evening, Lesley-Anne Meaton gave us a talk on enamelling on copper, when we all had the opportunity to design our own key ring. Those of us who have been on the committee for many years are looking forward with eager anticipation to enjoying a new and varied programme which I have no doubt will be every bit as enjoyable as those we have had in the past. I know the new committee is very keen and eager to try new ventures. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Margaret Moore, outgoing president.

Ladies at Leisure (continued)

Wives Group

The group continues to enjoy monthly meetings, with a talk and slides in February by Jean and Richard Covington on their holiday, trekking at 5,500 meters above sea level in Nepal along with stunning views of the Himalayas and Everest.



Potala Palace, Tibet

In March, Dr. Steele gave a talk on Wiltshire Air Ambulance, and the following month J. Jameson-Davis gave a talk on graphology.

June Burrows, ex resident of Bratton Road, found the photo below in a book purchased from Marlene Pike. Marlene takes a variety of books to local events, and money raised goes to charity. At a guess the photo was taken in the 1950s, perhaps it was a Mother's Union or WI trip to the seaside. If anyone could shed any light on this, please get in touch.

Jo Watkins



Nature Notes



Nature Notes



Clockwise from top left

1) Ants galore, and this green woodpecker's back for more (Holly Westlake)

2) Animal, vegetable – not quite sure? Katie Hackett's winning entry in the Village Hall's fun veg/flower show. (Jo Watkins)

3) It only happens in France! This frog decided to use husband Neil's glasses as a landing stage. (Rowena Heard)

4) Can anyone identify this mystery flower, spotted by Paul and Margaret Workman on their footpath walks?

5) Brimstone butterfly on sweet peas (Geoff Watkins)

6) Frosty fungus (Pete Hughes)



Village Hall News

The committee would like to thank all those that have supported the events we the committee have organised for our enjoyment. The events for 2014/15 have been agreed by the committee which will be listed in the next magazine. As usual there will be the Fun Garden Produce Show, Halloween, Christmas Family Disco also we will be having a Murder Mystery which in the past has been a very entertaining evening.

As with all things, the cost of food and entertainment has been going up so we have had to increase the price of some events. As the committee, we don't like to increase prices as we do heavily subsidise the events, but going on last year's prices where can you go these days have a 3 course meal and entertainment for £12.00? This slight increase in ticket prices, which haven't changed much for several years, is in part because we have taken notice of comments about the catering, so expect to see an improvement

This year's winners of the Church v Village skittles match was once again the church, with Barbara Webb having the highest ladies score and Peter Jones having the highest gentlemen's score

There have been regular monthly film nights since February, which has proved very popular, so we hope to continue this



Peter Jones and Barbara Webb, highest scorers at the skittles evening held in the Village Hall in March.

Photo Richard Covington

throughout the year but with a break in August. Don't forget they are free! So far there has been (Blue Jasmine) with three more scheduled; Philomena; Quartet and Warhorse.

The Somerset Night and interesting if not a 'little loud' accompanied with some ripe language – oops – apologise for that but a generally an ok evening.

More Village Hall News

As with all enterprises there have been repairs necessary. The Gable End facade has been patched up for 'years' (so I'm told) but it has now been repaired with a new oak beam and dovetail joints, which I must say has been at some expense, so should last for some. The speakers have been a bit troublesome for a while so have been sent for repair and hopefully they were back for the Philomena film night. And a couple of the heaters are not working, trouble with old kit, it's difficult to get parts, so they will have to be replaced with new units.

Julia Hammond has since moved out of the village and has stepped down as doing the Village Hall Bookings, this is now done by Laurie Richardson whom I thank for picking up the role. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank Julia for the loyal service that she brought to the role, when at times going down to the hall to unlock and lock up sometimes up to three times a day when it was let for private parties

There are still private functions and the regular classes, which continue to

The Fun Garden Produce Show classes are as follows:-

Heaviest Pumpkin	Tallest Sunflower
Largest Sunflower Head	Heaviest Potato
Longest Runner Bean	Misshaped Vegetable/Fruit
Heaviest Marrow	Longest Cucumber
Flower Decoration (details in the next magazine)	
Cake Competition (details in the next magazine)	
Children's Classes (details in the next magazine)	

So get those seeds and plants in

provide valuable income to support the hall and community events. We have sadly seen a bit of a drop off in bookings. A bit of an error with the phone number, right name – wrong number but that has been remedied so let's hope we see a pick up.

West Ashton Calendar 2015

A reminder to send in your photos for the 2015 calendar, we would prefer digital photos and emailed to westashtonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

The committee is always looking for people to join. If you would like to join us come along to the **AGM on 6th August at 7.30pm.**

If you would like to receive an email of events as reminders please send your email address to westashtonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk (we don't send your email address on to third parties)

Vaughan Nichols, chair Village Hall.

West Ashton School

West Ashton Primary School is going from strength to strength. It is amazing how quickly the school year flies by! We were worried that with the shiny new school on our doorstep we would struggle to compete, but we are expecting 16 new pupils to begin their school life with us this coming September. It just goes to show how many people still want a quality church education. What will their educational experiences be like I wonder? How will their experience have changed from the early education provided at West Ashton Primary School almost two hundred years ago?

Well, we will still provide the same strong principles and values rooted in faith that began the school. We will continue to develop opportunities for our children to be part of St John's Parish community as was intended when the school was first provided, and we will continue to provide a strong core of reading writing and mathematics to all our children, so we ensure they have a sound platform to create lives for themselves.

This coming term we are looking at the brave young men who went off to war, between 1914 and 1918, from West Ashton. We are looking at what inspired them to go off hundreds of miles away to fight a war. We will look at the life they left behind and the life they went to. We will find out how many of them returned and how their families coped without



them. In order for us to achieve this, we are looking for people from the village, with stories to share about their families. If you would like to come in and have a cup of tea with us and tell us your stories, please get in touch with Ms Vanessa Muller – our year 5/6 teacher who is

co-ordinating our research. We would love to see you. We are also holding an open event to share all our findings with our community before it is shared with Trowbridge for the Civic Centre to display as part of their commemorations, so please do look out for the date and come along and share in our project with us. There will be tea and cakes!

If we continue to provide activities like the WWI project for our children; activities that other schools with less of an ancestry cannot provide, then maybe we will continue to provide an education for all those in West Ashton and beyond, who continue to want our kind of experience for... maybe another 200 years!

We are proud to be part of West Ashton and we hope West Ashton continues to be proud of us. God bless.

Dr. Sam Nash, Headteacher.

Parents of West Ashton School (POWA)



POWA is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Trowbridge Area Board for £946 towards a new kitchen for the children at West Ashton School. The works will commence soon and include a new low-level unit kitchen with new ovens and an amazing array of cooking equipment! We hope the villagers will enjoy our new facilities over the coming years! POWA will be funding the majority of the works and we have received £250 from Persimmon homes also. The cost of the project is around £5000 so if you can help us in any way please get in

touch. We particularly need help with purchasing flooring and fitting.

Our latest events included Bingo and an Easter disco, and a school family summer fun evening is planned for Friday 18th July.

As always check the school website for information or our board outside school.

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

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

The Magazine – 10 years ago

The parish council said they would be pressing hard to have measures introduced that reduce the speed of traffic entering and leaving the village. Permission had been given for the erection of 104 dwellings on the land occupied by the Larkrise Farm. It was hoped that funding would be forthcoming for the farm to be relocated further up the road towards our village.

Cyril Sweetman wrote about the bomber crash landing in 1944. The plane touched the double electric pole in Yarnbrook Road and crash-landed

on the future site of Orchard Close on the hill above the crossroads.

The West Ashton Community Action Plan (WACAP) Environment Focus Group wrote to the West Wilts District Council and Wilts County Council requesting that consideration be given to providing a path/cycle way between West Ashton and Trowbridge when the strategic view of the area is planned. The request was on the West Ashton Road side but would not necessarily be along the existing road.... if you don't ask you don't get.

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 the days get longer and we start to enjoy an improvement in the weather, our thoughts usually turn to doing a bit more outside. 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 enjoyable 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 and postural stability classes, which are designed to help those who have had a fall or are afraid of falling. T'ai chi is great for balance and co-ordination and there are a number of informal walking groups in the area. Age UK has a Fitness and Friendship Club that meets in the Civic Hall. Or you could start swimming – it's cheaper for people over 60. Gardening is also good exercise, and you could make it a social activity too by joining a gardening club!

As your local Good Neighbour Co-ordinator I am able to provide you with more information about this or any other issue affecting older people in our local communities, so please don't hesitate to contact me – details below.

T: 07584 101092 E: trowbridgegnc@communityfirst.org.uk

Village Hall 50 Club Winners

January – 1st Frances Uphill, 2nd Ann Stride, 3rd Dawn Nichols

February – 1st Geoff Davis, 2nd Dewi Daniels, 3rd Dawn Nichols

March – 1st Peter Holland, 2nd Mrs. G. Jackson, 3rd Alan Pike

April – 1st Lis Mercer, 2nd Richard Covington, 3rd Ray Stride

From the Archives



GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATIONS AT WEST ASHTON : Picture taken at the Village Hall, West Ashton, before the dinner given to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Rogers, of 30, Clarendon Avenue, Trowbridge, seventh and eighth from the left. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers at first lived at Biss Farm, West Ashton, and later at Home Farm, Rood Ashton.

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Thanks to Edna Morse

Photo courtesy of Wiltshire Times

Golden wedding celebrations in the Village Hall of Mr and Mrs F W Rogers, back row 7th and 8th from the left. Edna is standing 10th from the left. They first lived at Biss Farm, then Home Farm and afterwards at Homefield, West Ashton. Mrs. Rogers was the leading light in the Village Hall many years ago.



How the Other Half Lived

Peter Hughes came across this scan of a scan of a photo reproduced in a booklet, dated 1927. It shows a meet of the Avon Vale Hounds at Rood Ashton. It looks like the butler has drinks on a tray for the rider on the grey, and look at the cars in the background.

80th Birthday Celebrations - Tom Hill

Tom not only celebrated his birthday with family and friends with a lunch at Cumberwell Golf Club, but was also treated to a surprise party and buffet in the Village Hall, organised by Tony and Sue Bradfield, neighbours in Orchard Close. It's a job to know where to start when talking about Tom. His life has certainly had its ups and downs from cloak and dagger escapades behind the Iron Curtain, to caring for his wife for many years.

Tom grew up in Brixton in WW2, experiencing every boy's dream of having his first three schools bombed in the blitz. In fact, his formal education didn't start until he was 14 when he quickly had to make the decision whether to take up carpentry or typing. Typing easily won the day as he deduced that he would be the only male in a sea of the opposite sex. With his ability to touch type, he was able to operate type setting machines, and started work as a typesetter in the newspaper and book publishing trade, graduating to working for five years as a lecturer at the London College of Printing.

During this time, a spell in National



Service and the Territorial Army intervened for another five years. He completed 60 parachute drops, narrowly missing being dropped behind enemy lines in Korea during the Cold War. However, life had its lighter moments such as during a NATO training exercise, he and his fellow soldiers had instructions to make a parachute drop and 'capture' a scientist dropped off by a Dutch submarine. Unfortunately their American pilot dropped them completely in the wrong spot, and they all ended up bobbing about in the water in their orange Mae Wests

Tom Hill - continued



With friends Tony and Sue Bradfield

– Dad’s Army springs to mind.

With the advent of IT, his career took an about turn, selling computers all over the UK, Europe, and Scandinavia complete with many adventures. He had one near miss in Prague one May Day when the Russians were on parade in Wenceslas Square. In fear of being arrested as a spy, he had to bribe a taxi driver with cartons of cigarettes to take him to the airport, only getting out by the skin of his teeth.

In fact, while working in the Eastern bloc, it was common practice to bribe hotel staff and taxi drivers with cigarettes and nylons, just to get through the day. It was always a priority to visit Western embassies in Czechoslovakia in the course of his work, as a double scotch only cost 6d (2 ½p nowadays).

Tom, his wife and two daughters moved to Orchard Close in 1984 simply because their bungalow was the only property with doorways wide enough to take a wheelchair. He devotedly cared for Val for 20 years and she died just days before their 40th wedding anniversary. Tom says he will always be grateful for the friendship offered by friends in the village. People took him under their wing, and once again introduced him to the outside world. He bravely took on the chair of the Village Hall committee during the renovation work five years ago. With the new housing estates slowly creeping up the hill, he hopes that the village doesn’t get swallowed up and lose its individuality.

Jo Watkins.

Spotlight on - Martin Watkins



Martin was first struck by the painting bug when he was only 13 while watching an artist bring a picture to life on canvas. With no formal training, he perfected his skills, practising on pictures of celebrities of the time, and now concentrates on portraits both human and animal. Pastels are his favourite medium which enables him to concentrate on the finer texture of hair and animal coats. Pressure of work and health problems put a stop to his hobby 20 years ago. Healthwise, Martin's had a roller coaster ride over the last few years suffering his first heart attack when only in his early forties, his sight was affected and he was forced to give up his hobby. Luckily in time, his sight returned to normal but has since suffered and survived two major heart attacks last year. Complete with a titanium aortic valve, his wife Claire says he is a walking miracle. Although it's an ill wind as they say, he once again took up

painting about a year ago when convalescing and now takes commissions.

Originally from Melksham, Martin works as a part-time manager at Leekes. He and Claire moved to Orchard Close 10 years ago because they knew and liked the area. The community spirit in the close is very strong with neighbours always ready to help one another, although he would like to see a shop within walking distance. Future plans include holding his own one-man exhibition. If you'd like a portrait of a loved one or your favourite pet, ring Martin on 07826 373 983, and he'll be pleased to speak to you.

Jo Watkins.



Charity Walkers



James Collins undertook the Bath Men's Walk on Saturday 1st February 2014 along with his two sons Jake (11) and Scott (9). They started at Dorothy House, Winsley and finished at Bath Rugby Club in just under three hours, where they enjoyed a pie and a pint, or lemonade in the case of the boys! Although the walk was aimed at adults, Jake and Scott were adamant that they wanted to take part in memory of their Auntie Helen who sadly died aged 34, from breast cancer in March 2013. Jake and Scott's grandad John, Helen's

husband Michael and several of Michael's friends also joined in the walk. Together the family has raised over £1,200 for Dorothy House and Bath Rugby Club. Dorothy House has been extremely supportive to all the family during this time of bereavement and this was a way to show our appreciation. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored the walk. <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/helenadams>

Parish Council Vacancy

West Ashton Parish Council – Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer Vacancy

Applications are invited for the post of Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer for West Ashton Parish Council. The post involves all aspects of parish administration, including setting meeting agendas and taking minutes; dealing with matters arising between meetings; liaison with Wiltshire Council and other agencies; Parish Council finances and the annual audit and dealing with aspects of local planning. The post is based on an average of 3 hours per week (to be re-assessed) - salary in line with SLCC and NALC pay scales depending on qualifications and experience. Hours are worked flexibly from home, but the post holder must be available to attend the Parish Council meeting held on the third Wednesday evening of alternate months.

If you are interested, and would like further information, please contact the Parish Council Clerk, Carol Hackett – telephone: 01225 760372 / email: carol-hackett@hotmail.com or Richard Covington 01225 761904 / email richardatwestashton@hotmail.co.uk

Closing date for applications (CV and covering letter) is Friday 20th June 2014.



WEST ASHTON WI INVITES YOU TO
‘DANCE FOR LIFE’
WITH DEE DEE WILDE FOUNDER MEMBER
OF PAN’S PEOPLE
VILLAGE HALL 23RD JULY 7.30pm
DONATIONS £3 TOWARDS COSTS



CANCER RESEARCH
CREAM TEA £5, VILLAGE HALL
SAT JUNE 14th 3-5pm
RAFFLE, PLANT AND BOOK SALE

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
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. Eileen Eggleton 01225 769636
Yoga	Mrs. Angeline Nicholson 01225 777452



Village Hall Bookings Laurie Richardson 01225 774050 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.
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 Coutts 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

June

Mon 2nd

School term starts

Tues 3rd

Wives outing to New Forest and Christchurch. Tickets £5 from Sylvia Preston. Leave Village Hall 9.30pm.

Sat 14th

Cancer Research Cream Tea, Village Hall 3-5pm.

Sat 21st

Tack sale, Larkrise Community Farm, 1.30-4.30pm and open day for the public.

Wed 23rd

WI Mystery trip, members only.

July

Sun 6th

Lunchtime bar open for British Grand Prix. **A Village Hall event.**

Wed 16th

Parish Council meeting, 7.15pm Village Hall

Fri 18th

Cinema Night, War Horse. **A Village Hall event.**

School Family Fun Evening.

Wed 23rd

School term ends

WI Village Hall 7.30pm. 'Dance for Life' by Dee Dee Wilde of Pan's People.

August

Wed 6th

Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm

Wed 27th

WI visit to Town Hall and sensory garden for tour and tea. Depart Village Hall 6.30pm.

September

Tues 3rd

Wives Group, Village Hall 7.30pm.

Sat 20th

Annual Flower/Veg Show. **A Village Hall event.**