

West Ashton Magazine

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**Following in
my father's
footsteps
(Burma) 2**

**Feature:
The Dunge
Festival**

**Equine
Connections**

**Insight into
Village
activities of
Dogs and
Dancing**

**And Much
More....**



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

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 Team: Jo Watkins, Janet Sweetman, Paul Workman, Tim Le Mare.

All contributions welcomed. Please send any contributions, in the first instance, to Leya Walker. Short stories and poems will also be considered. You must live or work within the West Ashton parish boundaries.

Front page photos of 'Rosie' Tim Page and 'Charm' Leya Walker

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Hi Folks,

It's all been happening in the village. If I'm honest I didn't really believe that the village had so much going on in it! But when you start delving all sorts of things are unearthed.

Firstly, you will notice that there are a couple of contributions missing from our packed full magazine. The first one is 'our farmer's thoughts'. Chris has taken us through a year long update of the goings on at his farm. Sadly, he couldn't quite make the deadline for this edition as – guess what – he's bringing in the harvest and is out to all hours. I just want to take this opportunity to thank Chris and his crew for an amazing contribution where, I hope, you may have learnt something new.

The other missing regular is the editorial from the school. We all know that there are changes afoot at the school and that they are on school holidays; so we will have to wait until next edition to see if we can get a contribution. Luckily, Maria, Chair of POWA, is keeping us updated on school events.

Since the last edition the news has been dramatic, we went on holiday (week commencing the 9th July) and in the space of that week we had a new Prime

Minister, a new cabinet, a leadership contest in labour, the Nice bombings and the Turkish coup!!!

Change is always tricky, but can be rewarding; so I hope that our country remains safe and buoyant on the wake of Brexit. There is a thought circulating that if we can finish second in the Olympic medal table we might be able to make it on our own? Did anyone check out the bottom of the Olympic medal table and make a note of the countries down there?

You may be interested to know that Escape to the Country came to the village and filmed in one of the houses in Shepherds Drove. See if you can name the presenter.

Anyway, this edition is packed full of differing goodies with our main feature being split between the Horses and Village Hall activities; and don't forget to read Part 2 of our Burma story by Janet Sweetman.

Our next edition could be boats! Big one, small ones, river boats, ocean going boats. Let me know, this is your magazine would be nice to hear from new sources.

Until the next time....

Leya

'To Autumn' by John Keats

A Wordsearch.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and
bless

With fruit the vines that round the thatch
-eaves run;

To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-
trees,

And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel
shells

With a sweet kernel; to set budding
more,

And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never
cease,

For summer has o'erbrimm'd their clam-
my cells.

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Larkrise Community Farm News

A Member
Group of

RDA

Riding for the Disabled Association
Incorporating Carriage Driving



In 2012, I, Wendy Self – Manager here at Larkrise Farm, presented a proposal to Larkrise Community Farm Trustees, to start up a 'Riding For

The Disabled Group' here on the farm, working under the umbrella of the 'Riding for the Disabled Association' which enabled me to access all the training and guidance needed. We therefore set up our RDA riding facility. I then looked into 'carriage driving' and after attending other established groups around Wiltshire I trained with the 'Marlborough RDA Group' and decided to offer 'carriage driving' to able bodied clients under the Larkrise umbrella. Larkrise RDA Group has a wonderful band of volunteers that come in throughout the week to help our young riders and older drivers! Our friendly and highly trained team help children and adults with special needs to enjoy the rewarding multi-sensory experience of horse riding and carriage driving.

We have a local school intake of special needs students and we also provide lessons and RDA experience for college students, those in supported living and private lessons.

At Larkrise RDA there are eight very special horses and ponies of varying sizes, accompanied by our RDA instructors who frequently attend training workshops either at the farm or other RDA establishments.

Our horses and ponies provide therapy, achievement and enjoyment for children and adults with special needs. In all but

the worst of weathers, students from local schools and independent living organisations can learn to ride or drive in our purpose built manege or through established tracks in local woodland.

The simple pleasure of working with horses is the cornerstone of the RDA's activities and from that starting point everything else flows; the freedom of movement, gaining confidence, building relationships, receiving life-enhancing physiotherapy or achieving individual goals.

This year we applied for a grant through the 'Postcode Lottery' with the RDA organisation, and were awarded £10,000, this will go towards a roof for the manege and enable us to provide lessons in all weathers. The total amount for this project is £16,800 and we are well on the way to reaching our target through applying to local fundraising charities and organisations.

As a charity, we rely on the commitment and dedication of our volunteers for hands-on support and help. If you are interested in becoming an RDA volunteer, no matter how much time you can commit, it would make a big difference! A rider requires three volunteers – one person to lead and two to side walk – so, including the instructor plus help on the ground before, during and after the lesson, that's a lot of volunteers! We need volunteers with a wide range of skills to help run the RDA group, you don't have to know anything about horses or ponies as we can provide all the training needed.



Photo of the Chippenham Guide group who kindly raised £437.80 for RDA Larkrise.

If you have time to offer please get in touch with Wendy Self on 01225 751675, there will be those who really benefit!

Wendy Self
Farm Manager/RDA Instructor



The Green Garden

Right from the outset we've aimed for negative environmental impact and almost more importantly for feeding and sheltering our local wildlife. Nope, sorry, no raves(!) but birds, bees, voles,



hedgehogs, small amphibians and other passing "friends" are all welcome. We've learned that the birds won't come unless there are trees and shrubs for them to use as look-outs for potential predators. We've chosen to replace a long wooden rail fence with a native hedge of blackthorn (for sloes!), hawthorn, Guelder rose, hazel, holly and honeysuckle producing berries and nuts. Then to give us height more quickly, we've added small hawthorn and rowan trees.

Elsewhere we've planted other shorter hedges of Portugese laurel and beech as well as crab apple, ornamental cherry, apple, pear, plum, amelanchier, whitebeam, whip willow and a small evergreen holm oak (which we'll need to keep pruned to stop it from growing to its full potential).

It's delightful to see wrens and robins flicking through the hedgerow and pairs or small flocks of blue tits, great tits, long tailed tits, goldfinches, blackbirds and other small brown and grey birds of various species stopping off to feed. At our request, a ranger from Wiltshire Wildlife popped in to give us advice on an adjacent piece of 'orphan land' plant-

ed with hedgerow shrubs. It provides an excellent wildlife linkway from the existing, to what will be an extension of, Biss Meadow Country Park; the local squirrel enjoys the hazelnuts and there are even enough sloes for us to take a share.

In the last few weeks everything has burst into life and we are seeing the young of our visiting birds and wonder of wonders the swifts and swallows swooping over the field in front of the house, reducing the enormous number of flying insects grass land produces when grazed by cattle.

There is a resident and breeding number of magpies so much so I counted 28 one spring morning, digging for leather jackets and the like in "our" field.

The hover flies re-joined us in this sunny spring, still on the wind, darting to pick up a smaller fly or meet with a mate.

As summer progresses we look forward to the cows visiting, egrets in the next field and the heron stalking along the river bank.

Our garden feels like a small part of this lovely bit of West Ashton.

Jo and Tim



Ladies At Leisure West Ashton WI



**West Ashton WI's 20th birthday party with special cake made by Margaret Moore.
Photo ©Chris Moore**

Here's what the ladies of West Ashton WI have been up to since the last edition.

In April, our speaker was Alan Truscott who told us all about blue and white china and how it came about. We were amazed to hear that the willow pattern story was a work of fiction, written purely to sell the china. Members and guests brought along some of their own china which Alan had a look at, valued and dated. It was a very interesting evening, and some of us discovered that we really did have cash in the attic.

After our discussion meeting in May, we all enjoyed a fish and chip supper followed by a good natter.

June, as usual, was our mystery trip when we went to the alpaca farm at Steeple Ashton. Pete the owner told us all about these strange looking but en-



dearing animals, from what they eat to when and how they are shorn, spinning the fleece and how it is used. There were balls of wool and patterns on sale ready for knitted hats and scarves. The evening was balmy, swallows were nesting in the stables, and we all en-

joyed our picnic while appreciating the stunning views over Trowbridge.

In July the speaker was Ellie Dickins who spoke about our Relationship with Feet and Shoes. She told us all about how our feet grow in childhood, how wearing ill-fitting shoes can really damage your feet, how throughout our life our feet change and how wearing the wrong shoes can also affect your knees hips and back. Nobody tells you when you're young that on average a woman's shoe size can go up by two sizes caused by pregnancy and an increase in weight in later life - oh joy. We all brought along some old shoes for recycling which Ellie took with her ready for charities to send abroad.

I have to remind you that the season of good will is not far off (*sorry*) and we have some topical speakers in the run up to Christmas:-

In September our speaker is Nick Jackson on Wills and Power of Attorney, in October our speaker is Robert Wright – Traditional Canal Painting – The Story of Roses & Castles, and November we have Deanna DeBurgh – How to make Handcrafted Chocolates.

If any of the talks sound interesting, you are very welcome to join us. Apart from our monthly evening meetings we have our Busy Bees, Monthly Book Club, Cinema Outings and Dinner Club. We are a very friendly group of ladies, so if you would like to, please come along, you will be made very welcome.

Eileen Eggleton
Joint President. Tel 01225 769636

Pottering in the Garden - Cuttings

July and August have been a particularly busy months, a crucial time for dead heading the Roses. This is an important job as if they are left unattended to they simply go to seed and stop flowering! I purchased a Fuschia which is a climbing variety, and is called 'The Lady in Black.'



It was quite costly, at £12.95, so it has to reward me with some cuttings. This is one which I took last year (one of six cuttings from the original plant). I pinch out the top pairs of leaves which encourages the plant to become more bushy and produce extra shoots. To achieve successful cuttings use a good compost, with added grit for drainage, and take your cuttings from new growth. Select a stem with three pairs of leaves, removing the leaves from the lowest leaf node and halving the pair above, the top pair are the growing tip and the lowest node is the only part beneath the compost. A sharp knife makes a clean cut at the base.

Penstemon are the easiest to reproduce, use a slightly gritty compost and

take un-flowered shoots. They come in many lovely colours; purple with a white throat, pink, lavender and there is a pure white with the petal edges outlined with pink. If you take cuttings, from your own or your friends' gardens, you will very soon develop some lovely colourful borders. They are long flowering and superb for cutting for flowers in the house.

I have been growing Figs for several years now and found a very old W.I. Recipe which together with lemons makes a delicious and unusual jam. They grow very happily against an outside chimney breast wall, getting extra protection from my open fires during the winter.

My Tomatoes, this year, are the best ever and I am certain that the reason is the timed watering system that Chris Moore kindly set up for me. It waters the tomatoes every 6 hours, night and day for a ten minute duration.

Thank you, Chris, I can now happily visit family with no worries!

I am thoroughly enjoying picking my runner and broad beans. They end up on the less than 15 minutes from being picked from the Garden. How good is that!

Autumn Raspberries, are just producing their first red berries, and the plums, damsons and apples are promising that I have plenty to do in September.

Holly Westlake

WA Wives Group

Hi Everyone,

I hope you're enjoying the summer.

We look forward to seeing you on 7th

September for the start of our new and exciting season.

Sylvia Preston

Village Hall 50 Club winners

| MONTH | 1 ST PRIZE | 2 ND PRIZE | 3 RD PRIZE |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| MAY | Alan Pike | David Ovens | Mrs G Jackson |
| JUNE | Mrs G Jackson | Jo Watkins | Mrs Piggot |
| JULY | Mr P Jackson | Neil Heard | Marlene Pike |

POSH FROCKS

When you work for a prestigious London hotel, and one of your jobs is to look after the Queen Mother's fur stole when she attends a banquet, and another is to make sure that icons such as Elizabeth Taylor and Ella Fitzgerald's every need is catered for. So, you have to look the part. This is why West Ashton villager, Daphne Petrie, was given a dress allowance while working at the Dorchester Hotel in the 60s and 70s.

Rachel Hobbs is our model and here she is in some of the stunning creations of the era.

The green and orange maxi dress is by Pia & Paula of Finland, the blue cocktail dress by Freemans of London and the peach chiffon evening dress was designed by Jean Varon, aka John Bates, who also designed outfits for Diana Rigg to wear for her role as Emma Peel in *The Avengers*.

Jo Watkins



Films at Steeple Ashton

22 October - Florence Foster Jenkins with Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant

19 November - Love and Friendship, comedy,

based on Jane Austen's *Lady Susan*, with Kate Beckinsale.

Tickets available at Steeple Ashton shop - 01380-871211.

Parents of West Ashton School - Update



I hope your summer has been dry and enjoyable, the same could be said for POWA's annual Family Fun Evening in July. The sun didn't quite make an appearance but the rain held off

long enough for all the children and parents to enjoy the festivities. Attractions included the usual inflatable bouncy play equipment, BBQ, bar, glitter tattoos and tombola.

This year the PTA decided to push the proverbial boat out and include donkey rides, salad bar, face-painting and our



very own ice cream van! Trowbridge and District Youth Band were also invited to provide musical entertainment and really created the summer fete atmosphere with their stunning playing.

Further wonderful entertainment was provided by the West Ashton school dance club under the direction of Miss Anderson, their moves were almost equalled by the flash mob 'wake and shakers' who demonstrated their regular early morning routines that prepare them for the school day.

Through the support of many parents, children, school governors and staff the event was a huge success with over £1000 raised which will go to enhance the school experience for the children. A huge thanks to all involved! It was a privilege to be amongst all the smiles and laughter and feel very proud of how the parents and staff created a wonderful event for the children in such transitional times.



September promises to be an exciting start to a new school year, hopefully with many opportunities for POWA to support and further strengthen our vital village school.

Maria Webster

Chair of Parents of West Ashton (POWA)

Photos

School Governor, Russ Kenyon, being made over by Miss Butler!

The Trowbridge and District Youth Band setting the atmosphere.

The dads do the BBQ!

Dermot the donkey from 'Kelly's Donkeys'

Photos ©Mari Webster



Maria Badder PCSO

We still continue to see higher than expected levels of cycle thefts across the sector. Most of the taken bikes (although not all) were left insecure. Please remember to secure your bicycle even if you leave it for a short time.

We have also very recently seen a slight increase in Dwelling Burglaries. These remain one of the most impactful offences. Please don't be afraid to report suspicious activity via 101 (or 999 if appropriate).

Trowbridge town centre has seen an increase in reports of drink related anti-

social behavior. Rest assured we are working aggressively on the issue, with our partner agencies, and we hope that this will have a positive effect soon.

Update: Since the multiagency meeting on 14th June, where we discussed the issues surrounding the town centre drinkers, we have had 4 section 35 dispersal notices authorised. This has led to numerous notices being issued to persons, ordering them to leave the town centre, and 7 arrests for alcohol related offences.

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

Activities at the Village Hall

Trowbridge and District Dog Training Club

Hello everyone, we would like to introduce ourselves we are the Trowbridge and District Dog Training Club. The club in some shape or form has been in existence since April 1956. This year we are celebrating our 60th Anniversary. We have been using the Hall since January 2010, as we'd been asked to leave Longfield Hall due a change in Wiltshire Council's policy on dogs being allowed in Council run Halls. The aim of the Club is to encourage responsible dog ownership by offering regular training sessions; help; advice; promoting the Kennel Club's Good Citizen scheme (through events) and supporting local/national Charities.

Although we are a Dog Training Club we actually don't train the dogs. 'What?' I hear you say; we actually train the owners and handlers on how to control their dogs using practical exercises and advice.

The Club runs on a Thursday night with four, 45 minute, classes. The first class is for puppies from about thirteen weeks (with all their inoculations). This class covers a six week KC Puppy Foundation Course. The second class is for advanced puppies, the third is for Adult dogs and finally the last is for advanced Adult Dogs.

The aim is to progress puppies and dogs up through the KC Good Citizen Award Scheme. There are three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold. These are achieved by various tests at each level.

During last year we (and our clients!) successfully achieved 38 passes at Puppy Foundation level, 8 passes at the Bronze level, 10 at the Silver and 4 at the Gold level! (Gosh it's like the Olympics! *Ed*)



You can get more information from our Web Page http://www.trowbridgeclub.com/Trowbridg_Dog_Club

Join our Facebook page.

Ken Scott, Cub Secretary.

The armchair Birdwatcher

It has been fascinating watching parents bringing their young to the bird table, and seeing the babies



shouting and ruffling their wings for more food. The most prolific have been the tit families – blue, great, coal and long tailed.

I have a squirrel proof feeder, but somehow the young squirrels squeeze inside, I wondered why the food was disappearing so fast. My daughter brought a humane squirrel trap, we baited it with peanuts and over 3 weeks we trapped 4 squirrels, I am now squirrel free!

Back to the birds, recently some seem to be changing their feeding habits. Pied wagtails and chaffinches are normally ground feeders but have been coming to the table. A female woodpecker brought her baby to the table, the greater spotted woodpecker is easy to identify, the female has a red rump, the juvenile has duller plumage and a red centre

to the crown.

I see so many breeds, but I think the prettiest of garden birds are the goldfinches. The babies don't have the red markings around their beak, but very sweet all the same.

I could write so much more, watching the birds is a hobby that gives so much pleasure.

From August to December, I'll be looking out for:

Swallows leaving for their long flight south.

Robins becoming territorial as the breeding season ends.

The cuckoo's calls ending for the season as they also fly to warmer climate.

Evelyn Sweetman



Photos ©Janet Sweetman

Village Hall News

As you can see below Margaret Workman has volunteered to start coffee mornings and will be at the hall from 10.30 till 12 on a Friday; the first one will be 23rd September. A really great offering, and if anyone of the village would like to put on an event for the village we will do all we can to say 'yes'.

I'm happy to report three more neighbours have stepped forward to help as committee members. Simon Alford has volunteered to join and take on the role of maintenance. RacheHobbs has agreed to continue as our treasurer and has re-joined the committee. Laurie Richardson has agreed to become a full member. Richard Covington is staying on as secretary and Jackie Bradly as WI rep. Sylvia Preston is away at the moment but we hope she will continue as Wives rep. Jean Robertson has stepped down from acting chair and is taking up her former role as vice chair and Parochial Church Council rep and I, Tim le Mare, was voted in as Chair and will remain Parish Council rep. I would like to thank everyone for volunteering, you are so important for the hall.

As I write, Mr Johnstone starts the decorating and Paul Pursey starts work

on the Entrance this Monday 8th August so hopefully these will all be done and dusted by the time you read this

The new booking system is now up and running with most new customers using the online form. There is a calendar on the hall front page

www.westashton.org.uk/hall.html

so you can always see what's on and how long for. We are still looking for a Booking Clerk so please let us know if you know of someone who might take this on, it is now quite an easy job and nearly all by email.

We have fitted the new PA and music system with 4 speakers to spread the sound throughout the hall, which lessens the need for excessive volume. A CD player is incorporated and blue tooth enables connection of computers, tablets, phones and mp3 players to the system. The first use saw a young man streaming music from the internet through his smart phone to the system giving him a huge variety of choice!

So all in all our hall is in good shape and is looking forward to a year of events and activities for all the village.

Tim Le Mare

Village Hall Bookings: booking@westashton.org.uk 01225 684772

Fancy a coffee and a chat?

Starting on Friday, September 23rd, there will be weekly drop-in coffee mornings from 10.30 to 12 noon at the village hall. These are intended to be completely informal as a friendly meeting point for anyone

who feels like a chat to break up their day. Please come along and share a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Margaret Workman

Social Dancing



Sunday evening, in the village hall, is a social dance evening. Social dancing is about enjoyment. We have fun, keep fit and meet lots of new friends. Since we began in 2010, a great number of people have taken their first steps in dancing and are now able to attend social clubs and dance holidays everywhere. We teach a variety of styles, including waltz, rumba, cha-cha and foxtrot. It is not Strictly Come Dancing, so there is no stress, or judges to criticise.

Learning how to dance is a wonderful social past-time and it is never too late to begin. Dancing, exercises both the mind and body and if you are a couple, it is something that you can learn to do together. No matter where you go in the country, there will be a social club or dance club nearby, and you will be sure to receive a warm welcome.

We run classes for absolute be-

ginners and for more experienced dancers wishing to extend their repertoire. In October, we have an **Absolute Beginners** taster course. 6-00 to 7-00 (Oct 2nd, 9th, 16th), £5 per person.

You may of course, just wish to be able to dance at your own village hall functions or at a family forthcoming wedding etc. But no matter what your dance ambitions are, you will enjoy dancing - once you have made a beginning.

The first thoughts of how to fill those long winter evenings, will soon begin to fill our minds. So if you have never danced before, then why not make a start with our Sunday social dancing taster-course. Whether you wish to learn just one or two dances, or go on to learn several dances, you will be welcome at the village hall in October.

More details: melodypartners.wix.com/learnhowtodance
Or call Kevin 07933 771205

Parish Council Matters



Following the June publication of the magazine I'm pleased to say two villagers have agreed to join the Parish Council. This will ensure we will always have a quorum to conduct parish business. Thank you to Simon and Helen.....

Planning

Parish Governance Boundary – By now I'm sure everyone has read in the Wiltshire Times or heard via the grapevine that 'Old Farm' and 'The Employment Land', the latter being now earmarked for 300 houses will be transferred to Trowbridge. Having attended Wiltshire's full council meeting on the 12th July the reasoning for the boundary change was little more than about increasing revenue, a far cry from what the governance review intentions were in the first place. The net effect to the parish is a 30% loss from the precept next year, about £2,000. The good news for what

it's worth is Ashton Park remains in the parish but with no houses now and development looking very unlikely in the near future is a pyrrhic victory but watch out for Trowbridge when it changes...
Neighbourhood Plan – The neighbourhood plan is making progress, the questionnaire has been completed and returned for analysis. A grant from the 'community rights programme', has been approved, which has enabled the steering group to secure help from an experience consultant to assist in the development of the neighbourhood plan. A Neighbourhood Plan page will be added to the website.

*Richard Covington,
Parish Council Chairman*

West Ashton website <http://www.westashton.org.uk/>
please send any comments to Nikki at westashtonpc@outlook.com

A Bit More

The spring issue's article on "Hackers" highlighted one of the more negative aspects of the internet.

On the more positive side are some of the "social media" sites. One especially I'd like to recommend, having recently joined is "Streetlife"

(<https://www.streetlife.com/>).

This provides very local contacts and is for neighbourly help. For example, "Can you recommend a painter, plumber, builder etc.?" "Help I'm stuck and need advice please about mending my car, servicing my wheelchair, raising my bed." "Is there a book group, computer help group, choir locally?", and so much more.

This might be renamed "Over the garden fence chat". Wonderfully positive, plenty of kind and generous people willing to help.

I recently listened to a radio 4 program on "mylostbox" (<https://mylostbox.com/>). By all accounts a very fast way of finding the owner of something mislaid or lost, sounds like one of the better uses of social media. For example, the camera left in a cab by a visiting Australian couple got a response from the cabbie's post within 6 hours! Extraordinary, and happily returned to the owners with all their holiday snaps intact!

The Byte-Man

Other Matters

Recreation Area - The parish council has received quotes for the installation of a swing unit and when the original equipment supplier quote has been received will take a decision and place the order for the swing. The annual RoSPA play area inspection has been carried out and it was noted that there were no high risk items which would need immediate attention.

Broadband – Wilts Council update – Sadly nothing further to report at this time. The link below provides some information but does not appear to give any definitive timescale. By putting your postcode the response is: *This postcode is in our current build plans. Click on the Current Build Plans box above for more info.*

<http://www.wiltshireonline.org/index.php/broadband-rollout>

Fly Tipping – Contact Wiltshire Council on 01225 777234 or online at: <http://>



www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadhighwaysstreetcare/mywiltshirereport.htm

Thank you to Dennis for letting me know when fly tipping has occurred; and it does regularly in Sandy Lane and just this week (5th August) a whole load of commercial waste was tipped. The item at the bottom left of the photo is an unopened magazine with a name and address. This just maybe the useful lead that results in a prosecution.

Interestingly there have been photos of

this particular fly-tipping incident posted on facebook. It would be very helpful if the person took the photos and observed the vehicle would contact Andy Mullings, Enforcement Officer Environment Services, Wiltshire Council by email: andy.mullings@wiltshire.gov.uk. or the parish council this will help with the evidence for a prosecution.

Wilts Council News Letter <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/parishnewsletterhome.htm>

Traffic calming – Notwithstanding any ‘call in’ opposition by a Wiltshire Council member the substantive grant application for £10,000 has been approved. This plus the £8,000 from the area board and the £8,000 set aside by the Parish Council means that we will, after consultation be able to proceed with traffic calming in the village.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The next step with this is training to be able to comply with legal requirements then hopefully the SID will be deployed.

Community Speed Watch – There is still a small group of volunteers but we do need to recruit more volunteers. Please call or email westashtonpc@outlook.com to discuss, it’s only an hour or two every 3 or 4 weeks.

Hedges

There are a number of hedges and the occasional brambles overhanging footpaths in the village. This makes it difficult to remain on the footpaths. Please take care to prune your hedges to keep the footpaths clear, in the case of Bratton Road, avoiding the need to step out on to what is now a busy road. The parish steward scheme restarts in October but that is for highway clearance therefore any hedge clearance is likely to incur a cost to the householder.

Horses at Dunge

Tim and Alice Page have been raising horses at Dunge since they moved here in 1995. Homebred Dunge's Laurent Rosé ("Rosie")



Rosie

(pictured) rose to the very top of her sport and came close to competing at the London Olympics in 2012. The sport for which the

Pages' horses are bred is 3 day eventing, the triathlon of horse sports, where the horse and rider combination have to complete tests of dressage, cross-country jumping and show jumping on three consecutive days.

"The pinnacle of our sport is Badminton Horse Trials every spring, and it was always our ambition that Rosie would compete there. She qualified twice, along with top ten finishes at both the French and the German eventing equivalents. Sadly, she picked up niggly injuries shortly beforehand on each occasion that prevented her running," says Tim. Rosie is now 17 years old and gracefully retired to stud duties.

The Pages already have three offspring from Rosie, the eldest of

whom is 6 year old Dunge's Don Perignon ("Don") (pictured). Don is now competing regularly with La-cock-based rider, David Doel.

He is following successfully in his mother's footsteps, Don recently won a class in a novice competition in Chepstow. Alice comments "It was all rather by accident that we ended up breeding such a talented mare. Tim had an Irish hunter mare called Bubbles (hence the continuing line of Dunge prefixed "champagnes") who we put to a friend's thorough bred stallion without any truly serious 'game plan'. The rest as they say is history."

The Pages can often be seen exercising their horses around the lanes and bridledways and amongst their string is Rosie's own mother, Don's grandmother, grey mare "Mo" (Möet), very much the matriarch of the dynasty.

Tim Page



Dom

Donkeys in the Bible

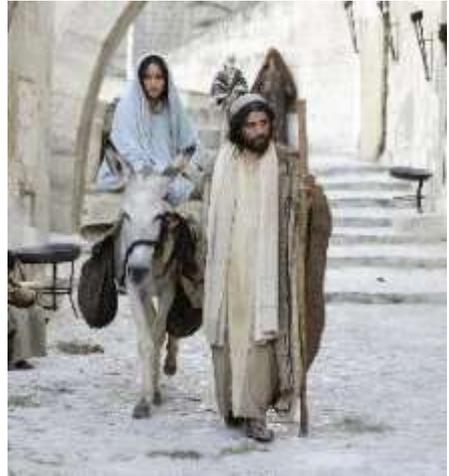
My own riding career ended at an early age when my pony was startled by a passing milk float! However, this quarter's equine theme got me thinking about the related subject of donkeys and their role in Christian tradition. In Biblical times, horses were only ridden by kings and the very rich, or used in battle as mounts, or for drawing chariots. The humbler donkey plays a more prominent, and in some ways, and significant part. They were commonly used both as beasts of burden and for riding; to possess large numbers of them, like Abraham, was a sign of great wealth.

The first donkey to step into the limelight is Balaam's Ass, one of the great comic turns of the Bible, which was miraculously enabled to talk in order to reprove her master for his stupidity and harsh treatment. Although it is a humorous account, the donkey emerges as a beast of great dignity and faithfulness, while it is clear that her master is the real 'ass' in this story!

The donkey of the Nativity is not actually mentioned in Scripture, but it is a reasonable assumption that heavily pregnant Mary could not have made the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem on foot and a donkey would have been the obvious animal for her to have ridden. There is something very charming about the idea of this every day, faithful domestic animal carrying Mary, and therefore the unborn Christ, on this long foretold journey.

The most significant donkey in the Bible, of course, is the one which Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem just a week before his crucifixion. The poignancy of Palm Sunday is that the King of Kings chose to enter his rightful Capital city on a lowly beast of burden, as foretold by the prophet Zecha-

ria, showing him to be the 'Servant King'. Scripture records that it was a previously unriden colt and yet it calmly carried Christ through a noisy crowd waving tree branches – a situa-



tion which would normally terrify a young, unbroken animal. It is said that many donkeys have a cross-shaped mark on their neck, as a reminder of their role in Christ's journey to the Cross.

Finally, the donkey is a powerful image of Christian discipleship because our calling is to be carriers of Christ, who lives in us by his Spirit, so that everywhere we go others will be aware, not of us, but of the One we 'carry'. A delightful story is told that when the Palm Sunday colt was finally returned to its stable that evening, it boasted to the other animals, "*I must be a very important donkey, because when I rode into Jerusalem today, the crowd cheered and spread their cloaks on the ground for me to walk on!*" Clearly this 'little donkey' had spectacularly missed the point!

Allan Coutts

British Eventing and Fence Judging

At West Wilts Equestrian Centre

For those who don't know much about the Eventing competition I have to say do give it a try. We are very lucky to have Badminton Horse trials (May) and Gatcombe (August) within an hour's reach with the other big event in the South being the Burghley Horse Trials (September). Large events can take place over three days and consist of the disciplines of dressage, cross country and show jumping. The horse and rider have to have many skills and huge concentration. My favourite discipline is the cross country. I think that the riders are fearless and a little mad. Famous riders you may have heard of are William Fox-Pitt, Mary King, Zara Tindall (nee Philips) and Mark Todd (NZ), to name but a few. The aim is to accumulate the least amount of (penalty) points over the three disciplines.

To get to these events, horse and rider have to qualify at other lesser known events throughout the country. Horses that compete at the big events are usually known as 4 star horses and have a wealth of experience. So for the pages to have horses at Badminton is a great achievement (see the article "Horses at Dunge" on the previous page)

Having been a fence judge a couple of times at Stonar School I was curious to do it again at West Wiltshire



Equestrian centre, based in Holt.

Fence Judges are volunteers. There has to be at least one judge, usually two, on each fence of the cross country competition. I love watching the horse and rider tackling the challenges presented by these fences. They are both scary and enormous and yet the horse will sail over them easily.

The competition takes all day, so 12 hours, a briefing in the morning with bacon butties then off to find your fence. Judging involves writing down times, noting down whether the horse refused the fence and blowing a whistle to warn any spectators to clear the way as a horse and rider are coming.

Time flows quickly punctuated by free food and teas and coffees

The afternoon brings afternoon tea and cream scones. I was paired with a lady called Linda who came fully prepared, seats and all – although you do have your car with you. And I learned so much from her about eventing terms and techniques. I even saw Dunge's Dom take my fence with ease.

I love it, the grace, training and beauty of these intelligent equines is mesmerising and I was rather amused with myself when, having watched the cross country at Gatcombe, this year, I returned home to watch the cross country at the Olympics three days later. What am I doing? I need to get on and produce WAM!

If you have never been to one of these events I would highly recommend Gatcombe. Badminton is lovely and wealth worth going to, however, it is so popular now and has many spectators whereas Gatcombe was just right (slightly bigger than the Frome Show?). Do go and

admire there are many other side-shows, one of my favourites being the scurry driving (pony and trap races).

My fence, No 16, doesn't show the



width or the ditch behind.

1 metre high x 2 metres wide (figures approx.)

Leya

August visitor

Preparing the magazine for the next edition I was typing on my laptop when a whirring noise emanated from the kitchen (our kitchen and dining room as combined. Used to bumble bees and flying insects getting confused and coming in through the kitchen door then banging themselves against the glazed roof in the kitchen has I lifted

my head to see who the latest visitor was. A beautiful and extremely large dragonfly was trying to

hopelessly fly into the promise of sky. To no avail. Quickly, I opened the dining room doors, kitchen windows and doors and guided him out, what a boon and git to see him. If anyone can tell me the name of the dragonfly I would be very interested. He had the most amazing wings, fine gossamer with dew effect all around the edges. Sadly, my phone camera couldn't do him justice and he was very quick.

Leya



Burma Part 2

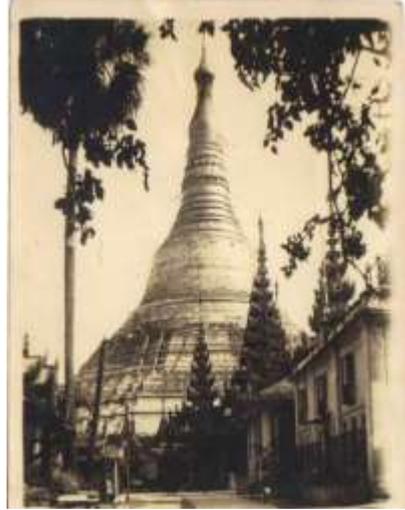
Inle Lake

Day 12 and we were off again, flying to Heho, and on to Inle Lake in the **Shan State**, en-route stopping at a paper making factory, (like everything else in Myanmar all done by hand, nothing is mechanised), visiting a teak temple and a local winery for a wine tasting session. We all agreed that Burmese wine making is in its infancy! In any case we were reluctant to drink too much as we knew we were soon to embark on boats that were a little tricky to get on & off.

For the next couple of days we toured the lake in these small, motorised 'gondolas', rapidly getting used to not leaning too much to avoid 'rocking the boat'. It was a lovely way to travel.

We saw the Myanmar fishermen, float-

1946



Yangon

Day 15 we flew to **Yangon** (Rangoon), passing Aung San Suu Kyi's residence, where she was held for so many years under house arrest. The Myanmar people are thrilled that the NLD won the November elections and were about to take power. There is a lot of excitement about the future.

We toured the city, visiting the local market; then took a train ride round the suburbs and visited a museum. At 38 degrees it was quite demanding so lunch in the cool was most welcome.

The city of Yangon is probably the place most changed from the 1940's, much of it now unrecognizable from commercialization, but the old still sits among the new, and the buildings from the photos are still there.



ing gardens planted on beds of water hyacinths, sunken stupas of Sagar, rice wine making, silk & lotus weaving, local cooking, and of course visited the market for souvenirs.

The hotel was fabulous, and at a standard that is rare in Europe, let alone Myanmar.

2016



On the last evening we visited Shwedagon Pagoda. It sits on a site covered in shrines, stupas, temples, pavilions and Buddha images, boasting 90 tonnes of

gold.

For me, the highlight of the tour was when Thandir took me to the exact spot that my Dad had taken a photo from, in 1946. I have identical images, (save a couple of trees & colour v black & white), 70 years apart.

If you are thinking of going, I would say go now, while tourism is still developing. The people are lovely, and seem very happy despite the poverty, there are smiling faces wherever you go. It's a fantastic experience, even without my personal connection. I'm sure many things are different now, not least of which is that I went in peacetime. It is difficult to conceive how it must have been in 1944/45 operating behind enemy lines, despite my research, as the veterans rarely talk about their experiences. Many things, including the people that Dad had great respect for, remain unchanged. It is an amazing country. Thanks, Dad.

Janet Sweetman

Field Trip Party – Grange Farm - August Bank Holiday weekend!



For the second year the Field Trip Party is returning to Grange Farm. Yes, another festival, but this one is for adults only. This year the festival boasts over a 100 acts, including

Roni Size, Stanton Warriors, JFB mainly electronic dance music.

No, I've never heard of them either!

We do have a West Ashton resident on the Outdoor stage on Saturday, Ayar Marar, apparently.

Festival goes camp for free for the weekend and there will be a designated caravan and campervan field. In addition, the organisers have gone with the glamping side offering luxury bell tents.

Organisers, Jack Clink and Ryan Allcott, said, 'For us, it's about people coming together to have a good time but without the inflated prices you see at so many music festivals these days.'

I look forward to filling you in further in the Winter edition, hopefully, and fingers crossed for a relatively peaceful event.

Leya

Once Upon a Time in The West Festival July 2016

So, this was the third year that 'Once Upon a Time in the West' has landed in the beautiful village of West Ashton and it's safe to say that we think it was the best one yet. This year we bought in a new area called the *Djinn Palace* located in the furthest corner of the field away from the village as it is a super late night area. The new bar served festival goers with fresh cocktails at cheaper than pub prices and there was an enthusiastic thumbs up from everyone that we spoke to as they loved the tent and our painted friend Djinn Genie.

On the Thursday evening we opened the festival and invited 'the locals' to enjoy it with us. We were delighted that 19 people from the Village came, paying £5 for their ticket, with all money going back to the village through the Parish Council. Thank you to Margaret Workman for being the contact for this. We hope you enjoyed it and we plan to do it again next year.

The weekend flew past with the sound of local, national and even some international bands performing and in between the sound of music was the magical sounds of laughter, fun and children playing.

Before we knew it, the time had come to take everything down and return the beautiful fields to their native state. We were so proud of people who came, they used the bins and they took home all their

belongings - there are no fields of abandoned tents with Outwest.

We operate a zero landfill system with local firm M J Church which means that they take every ounce of rubbish to be sorted, recycled or used as fuel.

We visited for a final litter pick, satisfied that it was a job well done and are now in the planning for next year's festival!

We would like to say a massive '*thank you*' to the people of West Ashton and especially to the fine folk at Grange Farm without whom, there would be no Outwest in West Ashton.

What drives us...

The ethos behind Once Upon a Time in The West (Outwest for short), run by **10 Gallon Events Ltd**, is to create the ideal festival. The Festival organisers consist of three partners with many years' experience in planning, producing, booking, managing and operating festivals throughout the West Country, from Dorset to Trowbridge, Bath to Glastonbury. We have been hand-picking workers with the aim to have the best crew of any festival we know, and designing the event so as to create the experience and environment we have been missing elsewhere.

> > > > > > > > > > > > > >
> > > >

It is our belief that a festival should have a strong relationship with its location: this means a good relationship with the locals and local authorities; but it also means we should use local suppliers and services and reflect the West Country in the music, food, drink and other activities on offer.

We also believe that a festival should be a welcoming and safe environment, calm and fun, avoiding high volume levels and monster bass lines. We make a feature of acoustic music, and focus on acts who use acoustic instruments before electronics.

'We think a great event is about more than just music and drinking, so we are developing children's activ-

ities, crafts, participatory activities and games, theatrical and art performance,' says Morph.

'We're a small partnership of workers without outside financial backing: this means that the event will grow little by little as our audience develops and the site allows, that innovations will be easy to review and modify, that no-one is pushing us down a get-rich-quick route,' he enthuses.

We hope that West Ashton villagers that attended the show enjoyed it and we look forward to seeing you next year, all being well.

Sleep well, Morph Murray



The main tent at OUTWEST 2016 © OUTWEST

St John's Church

Church Renovations update

We now have to tackle the guttering problem; the spire; vault doors and an added item of the beautiful east window repair, like home, it is never ending.

Church life has been busy, up to September, we have had 4 christenings; 3 weddings; 1 wedding blessing; 2 funerals. All the usual festivals plus the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration and a recent Special Musical Worship Service.



Why not come along for a trial service, join us on the second Sunday of the month - Service

Of The Word - 10.30 am - there will be refreshment and fellowship after the service - you would be very welcome, come and support your beautiful rural church.

Sunday, 12 June : St John's Church Celebrated The Queens 90th Birthday Service led by Martyn Whittock

Musical Worship at St John's

Here we see Revd. Reuben Dunnings, a local retired clergyman, taking Morning Service at St John's on Sunday, 31 July, and he provided the congregation with a modern musical interpretation of morning worship.

Rueben, being an accomplished musician, had put together a special order of service which included three traditional hymns on the church organ; played by the resident organist, David Chatter-

ton. The unique format was very different to the usual service, but still provided a meaningful and religious message. Thanks go to Reuben and for all who attended.



Cancer Research UK

A big thank you to all that supported our 'Cream Tea' event in June. A magnificent £400 was raised to help to beat Breast Cancer.

Jean Robertson



Dee Dee's Dancing Ladies attend Camp Bestival, Lulworth



Photo: A comic relief day with Dee Dee and her crew.

Dee Dee and her dedicated ladies, nicknamed Pan's fans, attended the Lulworth 2016 Bestival in July, headlined by Fatboy Slim and Tears for Fears, amongst others. Demonstrating their groovy moves in an hour's performance, accompanied with pompoms and flares, Dee Dee said, 'the aim is to get anyone and everyone on the dance floor.'

Dee Dee, along with a couple of her girls, was asked to judge the kid's under 16 talent show, where the theme was 'Space'. She was very pleased to see enormous amounts of future potential (talent) especially in the dance routines

Dee Dee started her classes of nostalgic 70s/80s dance, recreating the dance routines of Pam's people, back in 2009. Many ladies that began in the very beginning are still with her. 'We have such a lot of fun

and perform in many places,' she says (see photos © DeeDee). 'We get to wear such great and outrageous costumes influenced by the heady days of the 70s.' These are designed and made by one of Dee Dee's dancer's, Jude Lamb.

If you would like more information on Dee Dee's West Ashton classes then contact her on 01380

870489 or visit her website <http://www.deedeewilde.co.uk/#!/deedes-dance-classes/cee5> . West Ashton Village Hall classes are Tuesday mornings 10.30-11.30 and cost £7.

Answers to the Autumn Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | I | L | L | H | O | W | O | L | L | E | M |
| D | R | A | M | D | A | O | L | Y | R | A | F |
| C | K | U | L | D | A | M | R | T | C | S | |
| R | C | P | N | S | M | E | U | H | K | E | |
| I | E | J | Y | T | A | T | R | R | A | E | S |
| V | B | M | O | I | D | J | X | I | T | R | Z |
| S | N | C | R | N | S | T | P | C | N | N | |
| W | A | N | G | F | A | L | E | H | E | O | |
| E | M | O | E | L | E | U | O | N | N | L | S |
| L | G | R | B | S | M | I | B | E | E | S | A |
| L | I | M | A | P | P | L | E | S | W | S | E |
| X | S | R | E | W | O | L | F | S | O | P | S |

Recipe

Curried Coconut Chicken.

Serves 4. You will need 16 pre-soaked bamboo skewers

Ingredients

- 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 4 garlic cloves crushed
- 1 tbsp. grated ginger
- 1 onion chopped
- 1 tbsp. garam masala mix
- 1 handful fresh coriander
- 3 tbsp. fish sauce
- 100mls (3 1/2 flos) coconut milk
- black pepper

Method

Spread the chicken thighs flat and thread two skewers diagonally through each thigh to form a cross.

Place the garlic, ginger, onion, masala mix, coriander, fish sauce, and coconut milk in a food blender and pulse till smooth.

Pour the mixture over the chicken, cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes minimum. (they can be marinated for up to 6 hours in advance)

Grill over medium hot BBQ for 5-7 minutes per side until the chicken is cooked through and there is no trace of pink.

| Other Useful Numbers | Contact Information | |
|---|--|---|
| Builder | Paul - New build, extensions, renovation specialist, alterations. | 01225 753997/07799 563347 19 Bratton Road, |
| Butcher | Free delivery to West Ashton customers | 0117 986 3260 banablebutchers@gmail.com |
| Chimney Sweep | I J Marshman | 07831 684273 |
| Foot Reflexologist | Annie Ritchens | 01225 752002 Mob 07967630429 |
| Garage Services | Briken Motors Garage....MOTs, servicing etc, | 01225 755203 |
| Good neighbour Co-ordinator | Emma Curtis | 07584 101092 trowridgegn@communityfirst.org.uk |
| Judo Classes | Age 8+ W. Ashton School 7.00-8:30pm Fridays. | Mike Healy 01373 822349 www.zenjudoclub.co.uk |
| Library | The Mobile Library visits Orchard Close 3 to 3.30 pm | www.services.wiltshire.gov.uk/ MobileLibrary/Library/Stop/57 |
| Logs | Logs for sale. Ben Pike | 01380 870808 |
| Milkman | Michael Bullings Dairies | 01225 776494 |
| Newspapers | Seend Post Office deliver | 01380 828250 |
| Parish Council | Chairman: Mr Richard Covington Clerk: Nicola Duke | 01225 761904 01373 864127 |
| Police Concerns | David Bradley Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Village Co-ordinator Neighbourhood Policing Team PC Mark Hough PC1140 | 01225 754100 Non-emergency No 101 |
| Refuse | Community skips in Canal Road, Trowbridge for larger items. | http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days |
| Seamstress & Soft Furnishings | Clare Humphries, curtains, dress-making and alterations | 01225 767703 Mob 07929 122631 |
| St. John's Church | Services Sundays 10.30am. Rev Allan Coutts | 01225 754826 |
| West Ashton BoomerangTaxi Service <i>West Ashton to Trowbridge.</i> | Taxi service. Mon-Sat West Ashton to Trowbridge. Price each way: adult £1.60; child 80p; children under 4 free. Bus passes can be used. | Morning pickup 9.30am, return 12 noon Or 2pm. Tel: 0800 371297 to book. |
| West Ashton C of E School | Head Teacher | 01225 754354 |
| West Ashton Ladies Skittles Team | Mrs. Sharon Shiles | 01380 870196 |
| West Ashton Oil Club | Craig Nichols | 01225 774476 Email: craigmichols@hotmail.com |



What's Coming Up

September

10th Live Last Night Of The Proms - Free Family Event - Bring a Picnic and Flag

23rd **New** - Coffee and chat at the village hall 10.30 to 12 noon every week

28th WI village hall - Wills and the power of attorney, why you need them.
Speaker Nick Jackson. Visitors welcome starting at 7.30pm

October

2nd Harvest Festival Service, Church - 10.30am

7th School Children's Harvest Festival Service Church 9.30am

9th Harvest Festival Lunch Village Hall 12.30 for 1, Tickets £12.00

26th WI - Traditional canal painting -The story of roses and castles, speaker Robert Wright. Visitors welcome. 7.30pm

29th Who Done it Mystery Evening - Tickets £12.50 With Meal - 7.30 for 8

November

13th Remembrance Service, Church -10.30

23rd WI village hall - how to make hand crafted chocolates, speaker Deanna DeBurgh. Visitors welcome, starting at 7.30pm

December

2nd Christmas Concert in the Church - 7.30pm

11th Christmas Sunday Lunch - Tickets £12.00 - 12.30 for 1pm

31st News Years Eve Celebration -Tickets £15 With Buffet

*Tickets From Sylvia Preston 01225 765858 or Jean Robertson 01225 760368
All Village Hall events are with a licenced bar and a raffle*

Regular Activities In The Village Hall

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Social Dancing | Most Sundays at 6 | Mr. Kevin Burge | 07933 771205 |
| Dance Class | Tuesdays at 10am | Dee Dee Wilde | 01380 871608 |
| Dog Training | Thursday's at 6.30 | Ken Scott | 07867 820497 |
| Pilates | Most Wednesday's at 5 | Amie Hawkins | 07738 449245 |
| Tai Chi | Monday's at 10.30 | Brian Wooding | 01985 213474 |
| Wives Group | 19.30 1st Wednesday of the Month | Marlene Pike Sylvia Preston | 01380 870272 01225 765858 |
| WI | Last Wednesday of the Month | Eileen Eggleton | 01225 769636 |
| Yoga | Both 2 and 6 most Monday's for 2 hours | Angeline Nicholson | 01225 777452 |

