

West Ashton Magazine



Photo by Barry Williams

New calves at Larkrise Community Farm

In This Issue...

Rains!

**Cruise Ships -
Inland?**

Christmas

**Harvest Lunch &
Harvest Supper**

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

Front page photo of New Calves at Larkrise Farm - Barry Williams

Did you know?..... That Nathan Amor our new village hall bookings secretary has set up on Facebook the 'West Ashton Village Community Group'. It's a group for local residents who are active and interested in our village. You can share information and get to know what's happening in the village, so why not join?

Jo Watkins

EDITORIAL

In this day and age when property developers are gradually nibbling away at our green and pleasant land, it's a pleasure to explore our country lanes, enjoy birdsong and everything that nature can produce. However, a concerned villager who drives daily along these lanes has contacted the magazine worried about the potential hazards for pedestrians, particularly children. The Highway Code states:-

“If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light. Keep close to the side of the road. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend”.

She has noticed that children using the lane in East Town Road near the junc-

tion seem to be unaware of the traffic turning off the Bratton Road. It could possibly be that young families have moved to Shepherds Drove unused to the ways of the countryside. She also mentions 4x4s hurtling round the bends of Heath Hill and fears for the safety of young mums with prams, dogs and toddlers. By all means, enjoy our beautiful countryside while you can, bring your children up knowing the names of birds, flowers and trees, but always make them aware that the countryside isn't always the safest of places, that they must keep to the side of lanes and always move right back onto the verges when a vehicle approaches.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers, with special thanks to our producer Tim, Richard who deals with the printers and distribution, all our contributors and of course the delivery team.

Jo

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Down Came The Rains

For months the residents of Steeple Ashton were looking forward to the opening of the Community Park in Acreshort Lane. Up to the Thursday night there had been weeks of hot sunny weather, but Friday 21st of September and Saturday 22nd were wet VERY wet. Many of the field events due on the opening day were either moved to the car park area, or cancelled. All the village organisations were represented in some form or other. In the end, lots of people braved the weather and had an enjoyable day. The Glider could not be brought onto the field due to the soggy ground and the band was unable to perform outside as were several other village organisations. The Steeple Rocks Choir braved the weather under a marquee and the Brownies, Guides, the Wiltshire Guild of Spinners Weavers and Dyers were able to use marquees or their own premises. The WI moved, in part, into the model railway building where they made cream teas.

The West Wiltshire Model Railway Circle, Chaired by Ron Pybus rented a dilapidated building from the Parish Council some two and a half years ago. It is at the side of a field which has now become The Community Park in Steeple Ashton. The joint co-operation between the Model Railway, the Parish Council, several local organisations, the Melksham Area Board and the County

Council Highways has transformed the area with a stone based car park, fencing, the planting of trees and bushes and the latest



Photo Ron Pybus

edition – external fitness equipment for adults and a considerable amount of children’s play equipment. The Model Railway Circle brought the building up to current standards by insulating the roof and walls connecting water and fitting toilet facilities as well as electricity and some kitchen facilities. In addition they have developed a couple of large railway layouts which have attracted over 20 members into the club. The clubroom was especially attractive on this wet weekend as it provided warmth and shelter as well as being of interest to young and old alike to see what could be achieved with both the building and with model railways. The kitchen area and the toilet facilities are shared between the Parish Council and the Railway Club. The whole project has been hailed as an example of what can be achieved by the Parish Council, the Model Railway Club and the County Council if they all work together with a common objective.

Ron Pybus

Bird watching

What a wonderful summer we had! So many birds and beautiful weather, but alas autumn is upon us, and winter is knocking on the door. The birds have been bringing the young to the feeders, with many long tailed, blue, great and coal tits, as well as robins, but very few chaffinches this year. After two broods the swallows have departed on their long journey south.

My girls decided to take me along the canal towpath to the Barge Inn for lunch, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

On the way we saw plenty of wildlife – ducks, swans, moorhens, coots and a grey heron. It was surprising to see how many people walk the canal, some on bicycles as well. On the return journey we saw the heron again, standing so still, like a statue.



Photo Janet Sweetman

Suddenly its beak dipped quickly in the water, and it pulled out a wriggling fish. We stood and watched for some time, wondering how the heron would deal with such a large catch. All in all a very enjoyable day out.

Evelyn Sweetman

A Seasonal Puzzle.

Answer the clues. Find the letter in the answer indicated by the number in the brackets next to the clue, then rearrange those letters to give a seasonal 9 letter word.

Oh ---- all ye faithful (3).

Eight of these pull Santa's sleigh. ----- (8).

Strings of this sparkle on decorated trees. ----- (4).

Future king of England, 5th of this name ----- (6).

The saint whose feast day is December 6th. ----- (4).

Our sun is one of these. ---- (2).

Many of these will be arriving in the post ---- (5).

The last month of the year. ----- (3).

Celebration cakes are decorated with this. ----- (1).

In Memoriam

David Chatterton 1933-2018

David was born at Petersham in SW London and attended St Alban's School, but was not happy there. However involvement with the Crusader movement was a positive influence on him as a young person. He did his National Service with the Royal Signals in Hong Kong and on returning to England attended the church in Watford which was another formative influence. He and Margaret met whilst training to be teachers at Goldsmith's college in London, brought together by the Christian Union and a shared love of music. They married in 1957 and settled in Ealing, where they attended St John's Church and David continued to lead in Crusaders. In the early 60s, they decided to move out of London and took the bold step of seeking somewhere they could be used in Christian ministry, before looking for a home and jobs. Somehow they got to hear that there was a need at St Thomas' Trowbridge, where the vicar John Colbourn asked them to lead a Pathfinder Group. He also gave them accommodation in the Vicarage until their newly built home in Bellefield Crescent was ready to move in to. During this period, David taught at Nelson Haden School (now Clarendon Academy) and Margaret taught at Parochial School (now Bellefield Primary). David



Photo Jo Watkins

also helped to lead Scripture Union Camps and served as Church Warden at St Thomas'. He and Margaret fought a proposed closure after John Colbourn left – not the first time St Thomas' narrowly escaped being closed back then. There followed a very happy period as Head of Sutton Veney Primary School until impaired sight forced him to retire early. In 1981, David wrote a history of the school as part of an advanced Diploma in Education. In retirement, he continued to visit many primary schools (including Bellefield, West Ashton and Studley Green) as a voluntary recorder teacher and to lead assemblies, often involving the children in acting out Bible stories. In their retirement years, he and Margaret had many shared interests, both offering themselves as church organisers and regularly attending the Three Choirs festival and meetings of the Prayer Book Society.

They were thoroughly involved in the life of St Thomas and hosted a prayer group in their home for many years. David also served as Chair of Churches Together in Trowbridge and on the Christian Aid Committee. Since Margaret sadly died in 2005, David has remained active in all the ways already mentioned, becoming church organist

and a member of the PCC at St John's West Ashton in more recent times. He also greatly enjoyed regular walks with a group of friends (usually ending at a pub for lunch) and being part of various choirs and the Recorder Group. He stayed remarkably fit and energetic until the last few years when age and illness began to catch up.

Allan Coutts

Michael Cronan 1935-2018

Michael passed away on September 19th at the RUH following a year of fighting leukaemia. Originally from Cambridge, Michael and Betty met there in 1962. Married life was initially in Birmingham where they welcomed their two children. A change of job brought Michael to Westbury, and the family moved to West Ashton in the autumn of 1970. The old vicarage was the family home soon to become Welam House. Joining the West Ashton community, he served on the parish council, including a period as chairman, during which time working with the school headmistress Mrs. Stacey. They successfully raised the funds needed to build the netball court. After a varied career working for British Rail, Michael retired. But retirement didn't include relaxing. Always active and practical, a great believer in DIY, he set up Ashton Marquees. What started



as a hobby in the summer became a year-round job. At the age of 80 he thought it was time to retire, enjoying regular cruises with Betty to many far off shores. He developed his love of art and took up painting, building his own studio at home.

Michael was a family man, quiet and caring, willing to help anyone, happiest at home repairing machinery or on his sit-on mower. His family miss him so much and are still coming to terms with life without him.

Cottages Through Time - Who lived in 54-79?

1850s – 1930s - Between 1851-1901, agricultural work was the most common occupation of the men living at 54-79. In 1871 there was a thatcher, a carpenter, a blacksmith and a master baker living in the cottages. In 1901 George Dicks (a railway packer born in North Bradley) and his family were living in either 54 or 56 in 1901. The majority of residents were born in West Ashton or surrounding parishes. (In 2018 some of the residents were born outside the county and I don't believe any of us make a living from farm work.) Although the UK censuses from 1861-1901 include the cottages at 54-79 and their occupants, the houses aren't numbered so you can't reliably say who's living in what house, unless you can be sure of the enumerator's route. Electoral registers are another source, and later include house numbers.

On the Trowbridge side of Yarnbrook Road (A350)

No 65: In 1920 the Doel family are at 65. They are there when the Long estate is sold in 1930 and Mrs Doel was there for a few years after I arrived in 1991.

No 67: Ernest and Florence Marshman occupied the cottage in 1930

when the Long Estate was sold and Mrs Marshman was still there in the 1990s.

No 69: William Amer occupied the cottage when it was sold by the Long family in 1930. By 1954 Ray and Joan Palmer are there, by 1968 Majorie Davey and in 1975 the Whitehead family.

No 71: The Barnett family and Ernest Shrapnell lived in the cottage in 1920 and when the estate was sold in 1930. In 1939 there were four Barnett children in the household with their parents and Ernest Shrapnell. Emily and Joseph Barnett were there until after 1968. By the time I arrived here in 1991 it was owned by Mike Noad and occupied by another family.

No 75: According to the Electoral Register, Arthur Sweetman and his family were living here in 1920 and Kathleen Sweetman was still there in 1975. I understand from my late neighbour Cyril Sweetman that he was born at 75, so I assume Arthur was his father. However, the 1930 sale particulars for the Long estate list the property as occupied by W H Hood. A William Henry Hood and his wife Rose appear in the 1920 Electoral Register at Yarnbrook Road.

Cont.

No 73: This cottage was built with a blacksmith's workshop and yard at the rear and William Cook, blacksmith, and his family lived there in 1861. By 1871 a servant and his nephew (his apprentice) had been added to the household. The Cook blacksmith family was still there in 1901. In 1930 William Charles Amer occupied the cottage. By 1954 the Gould family lived there and in 1975 Peter and Yvonne Noad. I believe that the father of Pete and Mike Noad owned the hatchery built behind the cottages in the 1940s (now 73a) on what appears to be the land owned by John Griffin the butcher in 1818. Mike and Liz Noad built the bungalow Sandalwood on the 73a site.

No 77: In 1920 William and Charles William Amer were in residence. In 1930 the occupant is J Amer and Mrs Amer (J Amer's daughter-in-law) and lived there until the early 2000s. I understand J Amer had a small holding and the cottage was sold with a parcel of land in 1930 by the Long estate.

No 79: In 1930 Thomas Cook Corp bought this cottage which he had been leasing from the Long Estate. He farmed Biss Farm and I assume he sub-let the cottage to his work-

ers. (Thomas Cook Corp also bought Biss Farm from the Long estate. His son Fred was tenant and later owner of Home Farm, West Ashton.) In 1954 Rowland and Sheila Blisset lived there and by 1965 Cyril and Evelyn Sweetman were living there. Mrs Sweetman lives there today.

On the West Ashton side of Yarnbrook Road

No 54: in 1930 this was let to Mrs Mead by the Long estate. (I assume this was the mother of the last West Ashton postmistress.) There were no electors registered there in 1920 and 1939. By 1954 Edwin and Annie Cutler were living there. The Pipers (Alfred, Myrtle and their children) were there in 1975. Land Registry documents in relation to the sale of no 56 in 1986, say that 54 was empty in December 1984. When I moved next door in 1991 Graham and Donna Morse and their daughters were at no 54. Graham told me that the house was in a very poor and derelict state when he bought it.

No 56: In 1930 Thomas Cook Corp of Biss Farm leased the cottage from the Long estate and, like no 79, I assume he sub-let to his farm workers.

Cont.

He owned it until his death in 1957. In 1958 his sons (Fred and John) sold it as part of the Biss Farm estate (including no.79?) to Augustin Wayte Bryant (of Stowford Farm, near Wingfield) and his sons John and Philip Arthur Bryant. There is no mention of electors registered there in 1920, 1939, and 1965, but by 1968 Frederick and Yvonne Travers lived there and the owners had a bathroom built at the rear of the scullery. In 1975 John and Philip Arthur Bryant of

Biss Farm sold the cottage to civil servant Norman Frederick-Cavendish Cook and his wife Norah Beatrice for £6,750, ending almost 120 years of ownership by landlords (Long, Corp and Bryant). The single storey kitchen extension was built on the back of the house in 1979. In 1986 they sold it to Steven and Wendy Hole, who lived there until 1991 when Rob and I bought it and moved in with our daughter Rosie. Pauline Hume

Pets Corner - Update

It's been some time since we've visited Clare Humphries and her family of donkeys. Frosty, Dandy, Lottie and Jake can be seen in one of the fields adjacent to Yarnbrook Road as you drive by. The latest addition is Jake who has been with her for the last six years when he swept the board at this year's Wiltshire Donkey Show, winning a total of eight rosettes. He and Lottie also did well at the National Championships, winning a total of seven out of nine classes, with Jake as runner up in the carriage driving competition. Frosty, although aged 22 and semi-retired, still competes in the veteran classes. The foursome has been joined by Clare's pony Joey, age three, who also competes in pony competitions, despite suffering a severe leg injury at

18 months. As ever 2018 has been a very busy and successful year for Clare and her brood - long may it continue.

Jo Watkins

Footnote: - If Clare's name rings a bell, she is our local dressmaker who also specialises in soft furnishings.



Photo Peter Hughes

Jubilee Wood Scout Camp Site

Those driving past our camp site on the A350 will have been hard pressed to see any activity or, indeed, any green tubes now that our trees have grown and begun to fill out. This does not mean that we haven't been busy. The grass has had to be mowed along the rides and in the clearings and we have adopted a regime of cutting the vegetation under the trees once a year to avoid brambles and nettles getting out of control. Having started the latter in May, we finished cutting beneath the trees in November, no mean feat when there are 14 acres to cut and being mindful of avoiding any self-sown oak trees. No less than seven of our Scouts have won through a rigorous selection process to join the team representing UK at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in the USA. 'All' they have to do now is each raise £1,000, part of which will go towards paying for young scouts from poorer nations to attend. The highlight of our scouting year was a Wild West event to help our 'Magnificent Seven' towards their goal. With a little help, the seven young people staged a number of attractions including archery, air rifle shooting, panning for gold, teepee building and a shoot-out at the OK Corral. A great time was had by all. This winter we will again be helping the Wildlife Trust with conservation tasks in Biss Wood, planting a new hedge on our northern

boundary where it will border onto the new development and pruning or pollarding some of our new trees to give them a better shape, as well as removing the tubes from trees that have outgrown the need for protection and support. Sadly, we were unable to convince Wiltshire Council that we have a need for safer access to the site once the new alignment of the A350 is built and we are now trying to persuade the developers to allow us a new access route into the site from the new employment zone and thence onto the West Ashton Road.

Our maintenance team is at the site most Tuesdays if anyone would like to call in and have a look round at what has been achieved and, needless to say, we would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to help us maintain the site on a Tuesday. John Cox, Wiltshire West District Scout Association.



Photo Jo Watkins

Ladies At Leisure - West Ashton W.I.

Our members are busy people, so well done to all those who made time to contribute to the poppy cascade project and the coffee morning held in the Church to give everyone the opportunity to view the finished product.

We were visited by two very talented young women for our August and September meetings. Firstly Nicola who, having overcome anorexia, had set up her own business selling hand-painted silk scarves. She showed us how she designs and creates her wares. She made it look very easy but several members decided to purchase one rather than dabble themselves. The next month it was Lorna, who has written books about life just after the Second World War and runs a small publishing firm with her husband. She demonstrated her book-binding skills in the dextrous production of a notebook. Our October speaker was a lovely lady who regaled us with the History of the Mineral Hospital in Bath. It was set up in the 17th, century but the current

building has now been sold and there will be a purpose built unit to replace it at the RUH next October, so they are busy packing up ready for the move. They have created a museum and are trying to preserve as many records and artefacts as possible.

By the time you read this we should have survived a visit from the Wiltshire Scrap Store with a Christmas Craft Activity and be eagerly awaiting our Christmas Party. In the New Year we are looking forward to welcoming speakers on A World without Wildlife and Dirty History (all about soap and laundry.)

Do come and join us, we like to foster fun and friendship, and promise you a very warm welcome.

Jackie Bradley

P.S. We were very sad to receive the news that in October, whilst our current representative was away on holiday, the Village Hall Committee had passed a proposal," there should not be a WI representative on the village hall committee" thus ending a long association between us and them.

Village Hall 50 Club Winners

MONTH	1 ST PRIZE	2 ND PRIZE	3 RD PRIZE
<i>AUGUST</i>	David Petrie	Robert Coles	Ann Stride
<i>SEPTEMBER</i>	Peter Holland	Neil Heard	Michael Puddy
<i>OCTOBER</i>	Jean Covington	Sarah Bradley	Chris Hart

Thank You

The response to our appeal in the last magazine was truly overwhelming. So a big THANK YOU to all the villagers, wives group and W.I. members and people far and wide who have found time to knit or crochet poppies. Thank you, also to all those who spent several afternoons sewing them onto the backing to create two cascading panels. Especial thanks to Ann Loverock who coordinated the whole production (and crocheted a lot of poppies too.)

The panels were used as part of the Church decorations to commemorate the Centenary of the end of



Photo Ron Pybus

the First World War. Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to this tribute to those fallen in battle.

Jackie Bradley, West Ashton WI

West Ashton Wives

Our season started in September with a very interesting talk of how to stay healthy. In October, one of our members Sarah Bond, gave a demonstration on fabric design for costumes for schools. We look forward to our November skittle evening with hotdogs on what promises to be a fun and enjoyable evening.

Sylvia Preston



Photo Jo Watkins

Parish Council Matters

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

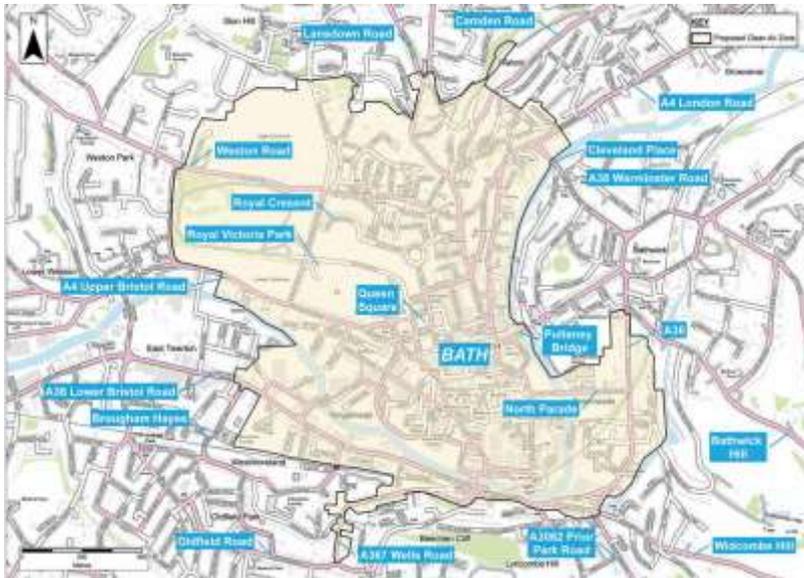
Ashton Park (15/04736/OUT) – As you can see, there has been no development activity in Ashton Park, indeed the A350 re-routing has to be started before any houses are built. However there is now a requirement for 44,000 houses across Wiltshire to 2036. This means that Wiltshire Council have embarked on a “Spatial Planning” assessment in line with the mid life requirements of the 2015 (approved) to 2026 Core Strategy to take things forward to 2036. There now appears to be a view developing that perhaps it’s not sensible to load more housing in the Trowbridge area particularly since the Ashton Park allocation has not started nor indeed the business site allocated in 1999 known as the “Land West of Biss Farm”.

Neighbourhood Plan – Sadly Wiltshire Council is taking rather a long

time to progress screening of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) draft documents submitted to them in May 2018, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This means we cannot proceed onto the next stage with the required further Regulation 14 community consultation to be carried out.

BathBreathe (Banes) – Has to reduce pollution levels in Bath, and therefore is running a consultation. Although it finishes on 26th November it is worth being aware of: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-breathes-2021-overview> The area affected in Bath covers the Upper and Lower Bristol road and a short distance when transiting from the A36 to the A46. These are areas where charges will apply and will most likely influence HGVs to use alternative routes in West Wiltshire.

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



Electoral Boundary Changes – The Boundary Commission is assessing the size of electoral boundaries in Wiltshire because of housing developments that alter the number of electors per division. Whilst there has been no development in Ashton Park, as yet the forecast increase in electors impacts on the current Southwick division. Therefore the Ashton Park development is proposed to be split between the current Wiltshire Council Divisions of Trowbridge’s “Drynham” and “Park Ward”. This doesn’t change the parish boundary but it will

mean there would be another Wiltshire councillor attending West Ashton PC meetings in addition to the one we have now.

For more information - <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=11677>

Now Autumn is upon us may we suggest you clear the leaves from the footpath in front of your house?

Richard Covington
Parish Council Chairman

Village Hall News...

It has been a fairly quiet time for the village hall in September and October apart from the Church organised Harvest Lunch and Auction – until now. First the Halloween evening on the 2nd November, the hall was decorated and looked pretty scary along with most of those who joined the fun. It was the second (you may remember the one about three years ago organised by Rachel and Emma) of what is hoped now to become an annual event. The hall was packed with revellers and a good turnout of children. A great evening!

The next event was the Centenary of the end of the “Great War” sadly then becoming more widely known as World War One. There was a speaker, sing along and a short film plus some basic grub of the time and of course the bar was open for liquid refreshment. Hopefully the scene was set for the Armistice ceremonies across the country the following day and the Church service here in St John’s West Ashton.

Future events: Christmas [Lunch – 16th December](#); NYE [31st December](#); 2019 - Skittles in February and

the Rugby Six Nations to look forward to along with a Murder Mystery in April.



Photo Jo Watkins

The village hall committee held its most recent meeting on the 2nd October 2018 which included the issue of whether the WI should be represented on the committee. This was because the WI were contacted both by email and letter prior to the AGM requesting that because there were three important roles vacant that would impact on the ability of the village hall committee to function and therefore run the hall, that they should put forward a representative that would commit to one of the roles. The WI did not respond to either the email or letter.

This matter was discussed at length, and whilst the decision was not taken lightly the proposal was: “There should not be a WI representative on the village hall committee”. The vote approved the proposal and the secretary was to write and formally inform the WI secretary. This does not affect the WI’s use of the hall or any assis-

tance they might offer for events and other activities as do many villagers and patrons of the hall do already.

Fortunately Jenny Kettle and Nathan Amor stepped up at the AGM and have taken on Treasurer and Bookings respectively. Geoff Watkins has agreed to manage the bar.

Richard Covington

The 2018-2019 committee members are:- Richard Covington (chair), Jean Robertson, Jenny Kettle, Nathan Amor, Simon Alford, Geoff Watkins, Paul Pursey and Sylvia Preston

The Village 10 Years Ago

Parish Council – The council was advised that police officers who serve the rural areas are all being trained on the use of hand held speed cameras, so you can expect to see their presence in West Ashton and all the surrounding villages. The problem of speeding through villages is not unique to West Ashton. A measure being considered is for the purchase of an electronic speed warning sign which could be shared by a few villages and moved around by the police on an agreed programme. It was decided to wind up WACAP (West Ashton Community Action Plan), but to retain the village magazine.

West Ashton School – The school had decided to upgrade its computer capability, and after the comple-

tion of the building project due to start over the half term, it was hoped to open the school as a community resource to enable West Ashton residents to either learn or brush up on computing skills. A successful OFSTED inspection was held in July which highlighted areas for improvement as well as the good level of support, care and guidance given to pupils.

Village Hall – A French evening was held, along with a French themed meal – coq au vin followed by tarte de pomme. Entertainment consisted of six shapely ladies performing the can can. Mr. David Binding from Community First presented Chairman Tom Hill with a plaque recording the contribution from that organisation towards the recent refurbishment.

Farewell to the Whales!

On 26 August, St John's Congregation bid farewell to Rev Des and Mrs Eileen Whale who were moving to live with their daughter Belinda in the Wirral. Des preached at the service and afterwards, over drinks and nibbles, he and Eileen were presented with parting gifts, including a collage of photos of church people and events. The week before there had been a very enjoyable informal tea party in their honour, generously hosted by Brian and Delia Slark.

Des originally came from Colerne near Bath, while Eileen was a northerner. They married while Des was serving in the RAF and were posted to Malta. After leaving the RAF, Des continued to use skills he had learned there, working in the gas industry as an engineer maintaining electronic communications. They settled down in Lea near Malmesbury, having a family of three daughters. It was also during this period that his Christian faith came alive and Des served as Churchwarden at Lea, later being recommended for ordination by Bristol Diocese. He served a curacy in St



Photo Jean Robertson

Helen's Lancashire and then became Vicar of five parishes near Diss in Norfolk, where he also served as Rural Dean until retirement in 2001.

Moving back to Wiltshire, Des and Eileen initially settled in Cornbrash Rise, on the then new Paxcroft Mead estate, and joined St Thomas' Church. Des was granted 'permission to officiate' in Salisbury Diocese and began leading services mainly at West Ashton. After a while, they moved to St George's Court in Semington and, as Eileen's hearing was deteriorating, decided to make St John's their permanent

Cont.

They remained keen members of a St Thomas' home group which often joined forces with the West Ashton Bible Study group for Lent or Advent courses.

We will all miss Des' clear and committed Bible teaching and sense of humour (he never minded puns on

his surname although he must have heard them all before!), and Eileen's warm and positive outlook on life. They have both remained unwavering in their faith in Christ. We wish Des and Eileen every blessing in this next phase of life.

Allan Coutts

CONGRATULATIONS

Allan Coutts and Janet Wigley are pleased to announce that they are engaged to be married on 6th April next year at St. Thomas'



Christmas
past, present, future



With

STEEPLE ROCKS CHOIR

and guests

Friday 7th December 7.30pm

St John's Church, West Ashton



tickets £6 from
Sylvia Preston 01225
765858
Jo Watkins 01225
753196
children under 14,
free



Readings, soloists
and audience
participation,
mulled wine and
mince pies for all.
Proceeds for
church funds.

Inland Cruise Ships

Nowadays many people enjoy holidaying on board cruise ships as a sure way to relax. What they probably don't think about is where and how these huge vessels are built. Actually many of the largest ships are constructed in a small village in North West Germany, close to the Dutch border. The village is called Papenburg and is home to the Meyer Werft shipyard, situated almost 40 kilometres inland from the North Sea. In the late middle-ages the area was dug for peat and gradually depressions in the land grew to form small lakes, which in turn led to small boat building. The river Ems runs through the area so when the whole enterprise grew further, by the nineteenth century bigger vessels were able to be built to sail down to the sea. When the company began to build iron ships it quickly became a very successful business. During the 1980's the company was asked to build three large gas carrying ships for Russia - these were the largest vessels that the yard had built to date and the facilities had to be enlarged. Following this success it was

realised that coping with building larger vessels was attainable and so a foray into luxury cruise ship construction soon followed. Today many of the really huge cruise liners are built here and they complete two per year. The long building - top right in the photograph - is where the ships are assembled and when they are completed the floor is flooded and they are pulled out by tugs. The operation is a tricky one as the draught of each ship is 8 meters but the depth of the river is only 8 and a half meters! Not only that but they have to sail backwards all the way to Emden at the mouth of the river Ems in order to help the captain navigate many bends. In October I visited the yard as part of a tour with the Trowbridge/Leer German Twinning Association, missing by a few hours the launch over night of the latest (and one of the biggest ever) named AIDA NOVA. If you google Aidanova there is film of the launch witnessed by large crowds - this happens every time.
Paul Workman



The Jos L Meyer shipyard at Papenburg, North West Germany.

HALLOWEEN

IN WEST ASHTON



Trick Or Cheat

I was appalled to have my doorbell abused by 3 young children, accompanied by their mother who stood on the road outside, on the afternoon of 25th October for trick or treat. I was under the impression that Halloween is on the 31st October every year or am I mistaken in these ever changing times? When I eventually answered the door after being annoyed at its constant ringing which was also unsettling the

dogs, I told the children it was a week early, to be answered back that they were off to Ireland the following day and they would miss out as it wasn't recognised in Ireland how sensible!

Should we do the same as our Irish friends to avoid this unnecessary and sometimes intimidating annual event here's hoping.

A disgruntled West Ashton resident
Properties were visited in Bratton Road and Orchard Close. Ed

News From Larkrise Farm

New found freedom for our two young calves that we purchased in May. We purchased two adorable heifers when they were around four weeks old. They lived in the main barn until just recently, being fed on milk formula that our students would measure into bottles, enjoying the experience of feeding them by hand. They are also fed hay, and when old enough they went onto calf pellets.

Now older, we have weaned them off the milk and upped their hard feed along with the hay that is fed ad lib. Getting too big for the stable they were kept in, were also having daily walks on the halters that the students were taught to put on them, this helps them to be handled easier when having to move

them around the farm.

To put them out in the paddocks at this time of year would have caused problems to their feet with the ground becoming too wet and muddy. So at the moment they live in the pig sty with concrete hard standing which is so much warmer. Here they are able to watch the goings on around the farm, and are easily accessible for visitors to see. Where the students have been able to hand rear them, they also enjoy being petted. Being out in the fresh air and sunshine with access to shelter when they need it, I know they will grow quickly and stronger until it is time to move them on once again to new pastures.

Wendy Self, Farm Manager

Mobile Library October-May 2019 – Orchard Close 3.30 – 4.00

2018 – Nov 29th, Dec 27th,

2019 - Jan 24th, Feb 21st, Mar 21st, Apr 18th, May 16th.

Joining the library is free, just bring along one form of ID with your name and current address. Your library card can be used in any branch or mobile library in Wiltshire. With a wide range of books, there are books for young and older children. Large print and talking books are also available.

Who's Who in West Ashton – Jenny Kettle

As our new village hall treasurer, Jenny couldn't be better qualified. Having worked in financial services for many years and now working part time for a building society she has plenty of experience under her belt.

Jenny moved into her house, previously the village shop in Bratton Road, two years ago with husband Steve. Born in Seend and previously living in Seend Cleeve, Jenny is no stranger to this area. Planning to move to a village location eventually, when the property came onto the market, they saw its potential and snapped it up. Jenny enjoys gardening, making home furnishings and travelling. They have three sons, Nathan the eldest has just taken on the role of Village Hall Booking Secretary. As a regular 'Glasto' visitor, after a mammoth nail biting effort to buy tickets for next year's Glastonbury festival, Jenny will be joining a group of 20 friends. They'll be meeting in a lay-by in the dead



Jenny with her two cavesties, cavaliers crossed with westies, brother and sister called Nugget and Fratton.

of night and living under canvas for five days along with the rest of the great unwashed music lovers, enjoying in her words 'The best festival in the world'.

As far as Jenny is concerned, West Ashton has a very special feel as a village, and by joining the Village Hall as treasurer, hopes to be able to support the efforts of bringing together the village folk, young and old in enjoying the facilities of the hall and celebrating a great village community spirit.

Jo Watkins

St John's Church

Autumn at St John's Church

The autumn months not only brings colour but proves to be a busy time for all. In late August a loyal friend to St John's, retired minister Revd. Des Whale and his wife Eileen decided to leave Wiltshire and head to the Wirral to be near their daughter. They proved very popular with the congregation, always having a witty quip and his ministry was sincere. September seemed a busy time for St John's; there were new reconditioned vault doors, paid mainly by Lord Long's family. It was time for the annual Ride and Stride event and our intrepid representatives, Richard and James Ovens covered 54 miles from Berwick St John, Shaftesbury back to West Ashton, calling in on 28 churches on the way. Through sponsorship and donations they raised £285, this being divided between the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and the

Church. Well done to them both and thanks to all the stewards who manned the church for the day. On the 16 September we had a family who live within the village, Jade and Nick Chandler, bringing their baby son to be christened – Charlie James. At the end of the month we had the Harvest Festival Services and the school children brought produce to be sold at the Harvest Lunch. This year's charity was ICC (International China Concern). Also at the end of the month we had a Musical Service "Hymns Old and New", arranged by Revd. Reuben Dunnings. He played his trusty keyboard and was accompanied by his daughter Janet. All enjoyed this musical time of worship.

Jean Robertson



Vault doors

before and

after





Photo Daphne Peat

Richard and James Ovens ascending the church approach road after completing 54 miles from Shaftsbury to West Ashton

St. John's Harvest Lunch

This year's harvest lunch, held in the Village Hall on Sunday 30th September was well attended with 37 tickets sold. It was lovely to see so many of the village residents there. A three course lunch was served, starting with soup, followed by roast beef and all the trimmings, followed, of course, by a choice of desert. After lunch our speaker was Angela Grist of ICC [International China Concern). She told us of the great work they are doing to support Chinese orphans, and how under their care the children are blossoming into amazing people. We then moved on to the auction of a huge variety of produce from the

Jade and Nick Chandler with their son Charlie James.



children of the school and the parishioners, with auctioneer Andrew Cronan. There were a large number of lots going under the hammer. Home-made cakes were very popular, and it seemed one gentleman, mentioning no names, purchased several! Sale of produce and donations raised just over £200, a super effort by all. Many thanks to Jean and Sylvia for their organisation.

Janet Sweetman

The Recipe

Christmas Day Starter.....no one likes extra hassle on Christmas Day so here is a non cook, make a day ahead, deliciously rich starter.

Smoked Trout Mousse with Celery Salsa. Serves 6. Overnight chilling.

Six oiled ramekins
4-6 smoke trout fillets (about 350g)
140g walnut halves
2 tbs green peppercorns in brine or vinegar, rinsed and drained
300gm full fat soft cheese
264ml double cream
Juice of 1 lemon

For the Salsa

4 sticks fresh celery
Medium bunch of watercress
2tbs walnut oil
2tbs red wine vinegar or cider vinegar

Method

Line the base of the oiled ramekins with greaseproof paper.
Flake the trout, discarding skin and bones. Save 6 walnut halves and coarsely chop the rest.
Chop the peppercorns.
Beat the cream cheese to soften and then beat in the double cream until the cheese just falls from the spoon. (if it's too thick then thin with a couple of spoons of milk)
Stir in the chopped peppercorns and lemon juice.

Add the trout and walnuts.

Taste and adjust seasonings if needed.

Pack into the ramekins, smooth the top and press's piece of grease proof paper on top.

Chill till firm.

Method for Salsa

Do not make more than two hours ahead of time.

Slice each celery lengthways into 3 or 4 strips. Dice the strips.

Strip the watercress leaves from the stems keep a handful to one side and shred the remainder.

In a bowl stir the leaves and the celery with the oil vinegar salt and pepper. Taste adjust seasoning if needed.

To Serve

Divide the reserved leaves between six serving plates.

Remove top paper from mousse, run a knife around the side of each ramekin to loosen. Turn out onto the watercress. Remove the lining paper. Top each with a spoonful of salsa and top with a walnut half.

Serve with crusty rolls or thin crisp bread eg Fincrisp

Jo Walton

Answers

Come. M
Reindeer. R
Tinsel. S
William. A
Nicholas. H
Star. T
Cards. S
December. C
Icing.

The 9 letter word is
Christmas

Other Useful Numbers	Contact Information	
Builder	Paul - New build, extensions, renovation specialist, alterations.	01225 753997/07799 563347 19 Bratton Road,
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 trowridgegnc@communityfirst.org.uk
Zen Judo Classes	Age 8+ W. Ashton School 7.00-8:30pm Fridays.	Colin Delve colin.delve@danone.com www.zenjudoclub.co.uk
Library	The Mobile Library visits Orchard Close 3.30 to 4 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 Boomerang Taxi Service <i>West Ashton to Trowbridge.</i>	Taxi service. Mon-Sat West Ashton to Trow- bridge. 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

Dec

2	Christmas Christingle Service Church 4pm
5	Wives Christmas Party Village Hall 7.30pm
7	Christmas Concert Church 7.30pm £6 incl mince pies /wine tkts Sylvia P Jo W
16	Christmas Lunch 12.30 for 1pm Village Hall £15
19	WI - V. H. 7.30 Dickens at Xmas in Vic Costm with Vera Hughes & David Weller
20	School Christmas Service Church 9.30am
23	Carol Service Church 10.30am
24	Christmas Eve Communion Church 11.15pm
31	New Years Celebration Village Hall live music and Buffet £15 7.30 for 8pm

Jan

2	Wives Village Hall 7.30pm New Year Bingo
23	WI Village Hall 7.30pm A World Without Wildlife with Amanda Butler

Feb

6	Wives Village Hall 7.30pm Trip Down The Nile with Linda Dowsett
16	Annual Skittles Village Hall v Church 7.30pm - £5 ticket
27	WI Village Hall 7.30pm Dirty History-soap & Laundry with Karin Kennedy

Mar

6	Wives Village Hall 7.30pm A Fun Quiz
16	Six Nations Rugby - Free entry Village Hall Noon to 8 approx.

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

Regular Activities In The Village Hall

Social Dancing	Most Sundays at 6pm	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 5pm	Amie Hawkins	07738 449245
Tai Chi	Monday's at 10.30am	Brian Wooding	01985 213474
Wives Group	19.30am 1st Wednesday of the month	Marlene Pike Sylvia Preston	01380 870272 01225 765858
WI	Fourth Wednesday of the Month	Holly Westlake	01225 755866
Yoga	2.15 gentle 6.15 intermediate Most Monday's duration 1.5 hours	Angeline Nicholson	01380 830458

For more information on dates go to www.westshton.org.uk/hall

