



The West Ashton Magazine

Issue 46

March 2015



Staff, students and volunteers with newly donated equipment.

Photo Ashley Wicks

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



www.westashton.org.uk



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Editorial

After the Christmas festivities (of which there were many in the village), the dark days of January and February are now behind us, so now is the time to peruse your seed catalogues and plan this year's garden. There could be a bonus for doing this, read all about it inside. The new year has started sadly for those who knew Cyril Sweetman who passed away late last year. Cyril was born in the village, played a major part in village life and served as clerk to the council as well as a Village Hall committee member, for many years. Happily once again we have had a generous donation

from the Village Hall committee as well as two anonymous donors to keep us going for the foreseeable future. Dog fouling continues to be a problem. If you see an incidence of this, take a description of the owner and dog and report it to the police who will act on this information. Don't forget our daily taxi service to Trowbridge, 'The West Ashton Boomerang', you'll find details on the inside back page. As the old saying goes 'If you don't use it you'll lose it'. Last but not least, if you fancy buying two cockerels with wonderful temperaments, details are inside.

Jo and Paul

The Magazine 10 Years Ago

The WACAP Activities Group organised a Boxing Day walk. 36 villagers and friends completed the walk on a glorious winter's day, raising £40 which was donated to Larkrise Community Farm.

Parish Council Matters - The planning application by Ashford Homes for the Manor Farm development (now Shepherds Drove) was refused mainly because only six affordable homes were planned. District Councillors were pushing to increase the number of affordable homes in the district

and considered that the six that were offered was nowhere near enough. The Westbury Bypass was rejected by the Government, but it was expected that WCC would still press ahead for planning permission. The Parish Council did not favour the eastern route which was chosen because it was the cheapest alternative. Dog fouling continued to be a problem.

The Ladybirds skittles team was promoted to Division One.

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Parish Council Matters

Welcome to Nicola Duke who has taken over from Carol Hackett as the Parish Council clerk.

Nicola has had several years in the role of clerk and brings us her experience, which will be invaluable over the coming years.

1. Website

1.1 I'm pleased to say the West Ashton website is now up and running and I hope you agree with me that it looks much more up to date <http://www.westashton.org.uk/> Thank you to Tim for his resolve in updating and make the site more user friendly. Please take a look and if you have any comments or wish to add to the list of events or activities please let me know.

2. Planning

2.1 The Core Strategy is about to pass its final hurdle. Having been endorsed by Wiltshire Council's cabinet, it now just needs full council to approve it on the 20th January 2015.

2.2 Wind Farm – No further news on Grange Farm or Thoulstone but the additional guidance as referenced in the Core Strategy (para 6.38) will be formulated in due course. However this is not guaranteed before the General Election.

2.3 Keevil Airfield Development (Wind Farm) – Planned military flying times at Keevil airfield are published on the RAF Brize Norton website and can be accessed

via the home page,

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafbrizenorton> and then by following the quick link labelled 'LAF Times – Keevil' located in the Local Area Flying (LAF) section. Alternatively the following link will take you directly to the relevant page 'Keevil Local Area Flying'.

2.4 Parish Boundary – representatives of the parish council attended the governance review in Trowbridge last December. Consultation is due to start soon, and hopefully the boundaries will remain relatively unaltered, which will mean additional responsibilities in the coming years for the parish council.

2.5 Mick Latham (Selwood Housing) reported that he had contacted residents to address their concerns about the design of the two proposed houses in East Town. The parish council also met with residents to discuss any further issues. The development would provide two social housing with the occupation limited to those who had a connection with the village. The area would be properly established with tarmac and generally tidied up. The parish council has been kept informed and supports this development for local use.

3. Other Matters

3.1 Parking – There was a meeting at the school for villagers to discuss the issues arising from inconsiderate parking and speeding through the village. The parish council will be considering options in due

Parish Council Matters (continued)

course to try and alleviate these where possible and funds permitting. One option is to introduce 'Traffic Orders' for the zigzag lines and disabled bay at the school to enable the enforcement of infringements.

3.2 Dog Fouling – Is still an issue, which it appears some residents seem intent on ignoring their responsibilities and persist in walking their dogs and allowing them to foul the footpaths. We all live in the village and it is extremely unpleasant for all, particularly where parents park their cars to take children to school. If anyone sees this happening please report it to PC Mark Hough.

3.3 Field behind the houses - I'm sure you recall the emergency meeting last year about the field east of Bratton Road. Whilst some considerable time has passed, I'm pleased to say contracts have been exchanged, and with a little more negotiation, residents backing onto the field will be assured there won't be any undesired development. Thank you to everyone who offered a donation at the time, which has fortunately proved to be unnecessary and of course Nick and Tim, 'The Builders'. They have facilitated the whole process and managed the arrangements between themselves and the residents.

3.4 Recreation area – The large five-bar gate has been moved to the right and a small pedestrian gate installed. This will enable access from East Town.

3.5 Fly Tipping – Is still a problem from

time to time, but please call Wiltshire Council on 01225 777234 or email clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk if you see any.

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

3.7 Community Speed Watch (CSW) – This was suspended pending an HSE risk assessment because of new rules. This has now recommenced. Linking this to the parking issues above, the parish council will consider the possibility of traffic calming. On Tuesday 20 January 2015 Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers will be carrying out roadside speed checks at 40 locations around Wiltshire and Swindon. Operation Harness is an initiative between the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) and Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) that worked in partnership with CSW. The objective was to educate drivers who were identified as speeding and informing them about speed awareness to help prevent further offences. Police officers will also be taking appropriate measures with any other traffic offences such as, driving while on a mobile phone and not wearing a seatbelt. West Ashton had seven police officers on the day during the CSW session in the afternoon. Media representatives were invited to attend locations where CSW volunteers were carrying out checks.

*Richard Covington, Parish Council
Chairman*

West Ashton's New Website

www.westashton.org.uk

Some years ago, whilst still in gainful employment, my then webmaster became too busy to keep my site up to date, so in desperation I taught myself to make and update simple sites, mine in particular. Other jewellers were also struggling, so I offered to help them out, and in the usual way of these things, a career opened out and I became a part time webmaster, be they ever so simple. However about the same time my sister was starting out into self-employment making cakes, and needed a web presence, so I helped out. This of course led into an online brochure for cakes and shop for chocolate creations, which required a lot more study and learning, which as you will have gathered I enjoy, it certainly helps if you are paid for it!

When I became a parish councillor last year (which I have also enjoyed), one of the concerns I had was the website was a little dated and could perhaps benefit from an update. Since I had made web design and building my second income, I thought it would be ideal if I were to volunteer to work on it. So



with lots of help in understanding what is important to the village I set to. Eventually I had something to show, and several parish councillors reviewed my efforts, suggested essential changes and we went public early December last year.

Now it's not the last word in design nor the slickest video - encrusted creation, but we have now got pictures of the village, its church and I hope you will agree, a more up to date approach and content.

If you would like to comment and perhaps suggest some improvements I would be glad to discuss this with you and if agreed make the changes, it is after all our parish council website – I am merely the mechanic making it happen.

Tim Le Mare

tim@trowbridgechoral.org.uk

Letters

Dear Villagers,

We are always scratching our heads looking for new and interesting activities that could involve the school community and one bright idea we've had recently is a Scarecrow Trail. We'd like to hold it on one afternoon during a weekend around Harvest Festival in late September/early October culminating in some refreshments at the school. We could just restrict it to the school, but we thought that the villagers might like to be involved as well. If you were interested in building and hosting a scarecrow or just hosting one, then please let me know. If you would strongly object to the idea of having yet another day of many children and parents tramping around the village, then please also let me know. Our aim is to help build the community and if the majority of residents would prefer that we keep this

event on school grounds then we will be happy to do so. Please feel free to contact me at my e-mail address below.

Many thanks,

Alastair King, Chair of POWA,
alastairj.king77@virginmedia.com

To all village dog owners, please can you make sure that when taking your dogs for a walk in the village that you take enough bags with you to clean up after your animal. In the last few weeks this seems to be a growing issue and we need to put a stop to it. Be responsible; clean up after your pet!

Rachel Hobbs Orchard Close.

Footnote – According to the village magazine 10 years ago, dog fouling was a problem then – nothing changes. Ed.

PCSO Maria Badder

My last day was on Wednesday 28th January 2015 and I am now on maternity leave. I would like to say a 'BIG' Thank you to West Ashton residents and Primary School, Parish Council and Community Speed Watch for all their help and support over the time that I have been in the Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team. I will look forward to returning back to work after my maternity leave and sure I will need updating with the changes in the area. Please make contact with PC Mark HOUGH if there are any concerns/ questions.

Take Care,

Maria,

PCSO 6163 Maria Badder, Police Community Support Officer, Trowbridge Police Station, Polebarn Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7EP, Telephone: 101. Mobile: 07528972002

Email: ella.badder@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

The Flavour of Christmas



"Merry Christmas to you too!", I muttered, as Sandra and I trudged up the inky blackness of the closed-off A350, past the menacing-looking men and their huge, smelly, noisy machines. The repeated roadworks had rendered our home inaccessible by car without taking a 3 mile diversion, so we were forced to take an icy and character-forming hike to St. John's Church to attend the Flavour of Christmas concert. From afar we saw the illuminated church, flashing disco lights lighting up the outside, and the path around marked out by strings of twinkly seasonal lights. Once inside, the warmth and welcome were equal, and the mulled wine and mince pies restored our senses.

Adrienne Hale and the Steeple Rocks Choir from Steeple Ashton had put together another excellent introduction to the Christmas spirit, with a mixture of

carols we could all sing, and more contemporary music where we just listened and appreciated the talent. Stuart Trusler performed three pieces on his saxophone, and Angela Giddings presented a perfect delivery of two memorably humorous readings.

After the concert, people seemed to be reluctant to leave (perhaps because of the bitter cold outside); social groups formed and many people helped the organisers by consuming the remainder of the mince pies and mulled wine. This event is always a really good start to the Christmas Season as well as raising funds for the Church, and thanks are due to everyone who helped with the organisation.

Pete Hughes

The Flavour of Christmas (persisting)



Thanks to all those involved in the Christmas concert in the church on 5th December - Steeple Ashton Rocks were brilliant, so much so we half expected Whoopie Goldberg to come dancing down the aisle at some point during the evening. Rowena and Neil Heard, Orchard Close.

Stuart Trusler, Adrienne Hale and Jean Robertson (organiser)

Thanks to all those who helped in any way and to those who supported The Flavour of Christmas Concert in St John's Church on 5 December. The choir, Steeple Rocks, certainly rocked the rafters; accompanied with mulled wine and mince pies, all added spice to the start of the festive season. After all invoices were paid, a donation of £125 was given to the church. *Sincere thanks to you all from Jean Robertson and Sylvia Preston.*



Thanks

Kevin and Lucy Pullen would like to say a huge thank you to all their neighbours in Orchard close, for putting up with all the noise and disruption whilst all renovation work is taking place on our home. Hopefully by the time you are reading this article our house will be nearly finished. A big thank you to Neil Heard for designing our Grand design and Paul Pursey director of Maple Builder's for all his hard work and dedication.

(Left): Olaf the snowman aka Kevin Pullen

Jackie Bradley, West Ashton WI, would like to thank the collectors and all those who contributed to the **Poppy Appeal**. The sum of £209 was collected.

Larkrise Farm News

The autumn/winter period 2014 proved challenging in many respects - not least weather-wise when an ark would have been more use than wellies at times! However we, and the livestock, survived and yet another Limousin X calf was born at the farm at the end of October. Bonnie, one of our Anglo Nubian X kid goats, born last Easter, is growing fast and becoming cheekier by the day. She loves attention and was a hit with a local Brownie group who visited the farm one evening last November. We have now officially purchased our two Mediterranean Miniature Donkeys, Maddy and Petal. Since ownership they have been hired out over the Christmas season to playgroups, nurseries, and schools, their behaviour everywhere (the animals that is!) was impeccable.

After all the excitement of Christmas parties and Nativity Plays, we recharged our batteries over the holidays and now look forward to a very exciting spring. We welcome lots of individuals and pre-booked groups at this time; please come along and join in the fun.

We decided to lamb early this year and our lambs are due at the end of

January so watch this space. Oscar the boar has once again been romancing our sows Porgy and Bess; hopefully piglets should also be arriving in February. We aim to hatch more poultry this year. Polish and Dutch bantams, as well as Embden goslings should be available late spring/early summer. We still have two stunning Polish Chamois Cockerels for sale with wonderful temperaments from last year's brood. If you are interested please contact Ashley or me at the farm.

Cereal Partners of Staverton recently kindly donated new tools, wheelbarrows, hayracks, poultry feeders and grooming equipment. We are **extremely** grateful; as you can imagine our tools are constantly in use by students and take a real bashing at times!

Finally, our RDA group is very busy. We have applied for a Group Development Grant through the RDA to buy a ramp to enable students, whether able-bodied or in wheelchairs, to easily approach and mount their horse/pony – so keep your fingers crossed!

Wendy Self, Farm Manager.

A Piece of History Comes to St John's Church

Two unique poppies have arrived at St. Johns Church.

They are two of the 888,246 hand made poppies/work of art from London's evocative installation of "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red", which marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War (1914-2014). The ceramic poppies filled the Tower of London's famous moat from 17 July until Armistice Day on 11th November 2014. Each poppy represented a British or Colonial military fatality during the war. Hundreds of thousands of visitors came to view the sea of red grow, encircling the iconic landmark. Millions more around the world watched on line and shared the experience. 25,000 volunteers generously gave their time to plant the poppies; they came from all over the UK, Europe and the world, including New Zealand, India, China and the USA. Each poppy was sold and monies raised went to six charities: The Confederation of Service Charities; Combat Stress (mental health charity); Coming Home (support for seriously injured service men and women); Help the Heroes (charity providing help and support); The British Legion Admiral Nursing Service (a community dementia nursing service and support to family carers); Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (A most innovative military charity helping to provide support to wives and children of the military personnel).

Two men had the brain wave to create such a beautiful and symbolic memorial which would be remembered for many generations.



Paul Cummins, an international ceramic artist had the concept basing his desire to commemorate the First World War centenary by creating an unforgettable visual installation for all to see, and raise monies for the six service charities at the same time. He certainly achieved his aim. The poppies were made in

Derby and not one flower in the entire manufacture is the same because they were all hand-made, so extra special. Tom Piper (an Olivier Award winning theatre designer) had the idea for the poppies to be like water or blood, seeping from the tower crashing over in waves and filling the moat. His vision was amazing. Ian and I had the privilege to visit this beautifully poignant, yet sad memorial - it was hard to grasp that one poppy was one life. Thousands of people were there but there was an air of serenity and dignity, making the experience very humbling and heart warming. We left feeling we had experienced a very moving tribute. In the Tower of London itself, they had a superb display of photographs and historic detail concerning WW1 - it was amazing (and rather saddening) to see a photograph of a 100 years ago, showing city workers being sworn into the Army in the Tower of London moat (exactly where the poppies had been placed). These proud men formed the Stockbrokers Battalion in 1914.

Jean Robertson

The PCC will discuss how best to display the poppies - one of which was paid for from donations from members of the PCC and one being purchased by Ian & Jean Robertson.

Ladies at Leisure-West Ashton WI & Wives Group

By the time you all read this, Christmas will be a distant memory and we will all be looking forward to spring and summer. Here is a summary of what the ladies in West Ashton WI have been up to. At our October meeting we had Flo Broughton from Choc on Choc, whose factory is in Rode, Somerset, who came to tell us how she started the business with her father. Flo was very entertaining, giving us details of how their business went from strength to strength and how she had orders from big outlets such as John Lewis and others for her specialized chocolates. She was also commissioned to make chocolate for Prince William and Catherine's wedding. Everyone had a good time especially when Flo passed round samples of the chocolates that she makes for us to try (yummy!).

Afterwards we could purchase some of her products which most of us did. In November we had an outing to the cinema in Trowbridge to see *The Imitation Game*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley. Everyone seemed to enjoy the film, which is about how the Enigma machine was cracked in the Second World War. Our speaker for November was Dinah Starkey who told us all about the Story of Christmas Dinner with slides of how things have changed throughout the years. December saw the usual Christmas party where everyone had a good time with good food and good company. We also invited members from other local WIs to join us. Our speaker was Bishop



Members with Bishop Bill, guest at our Christmas party. Photo Margaret Moore

Bill from the television programme 'An Island Parish' who entertained with stories of things that had happened to him during his career.

Some of our ladies meet in the afternoon on the 2nd Thursday of the month for Busy Bees, this is a craft club where you can bring along any thing you like making. If you are not 'crafty' you can just come for a chat, a cup of tea and a piece of cake which Holly Westlake usually makes. Our AGM will be held in March, in April we have 'Strange Things Do Happen' with Susan Marshfield and in May we will discuss topical issues followed by a fish and chip supper.

If you feel you would like to make new friends in a very relaxed atmosphere please come along and meet us all, you will be made very welcome.

Eileen Eggleton, Joint President.

Ladies at Leisure (continued)



Everybody enjoyed our November meeting with a very interesting talk and film on wildlife animals in Africa. In December, we all entered into the Christmas spirit with carols, poems and buffet with a glass of wine. We saw the New Year in with a game of bingo and prizes to be won and look forward to the rest of the season with a coach trip to Sidmouth on June 2nd.

Sylvia Preston.

Photo by Holly Westlake: Prize winners at the January Wives Group meeting



Happy Easter

It is a pure, but happy, coincidence that the Christian celebration of the Resurrection of Christ happens at the same time as the coming of Spring (in the Northern Hemisphere, at any rate!) Even though Spring seems to be coming earlier and earlier, and Easter can fall any time between the end of March and the end of April, the two things are firmly linked in our minds as evidenced by the profusion of daffodils, primroses and chicks at this time of year. The yearly miracle of nature waking up again after the cold, dark winter months nicely echoes the triumphant message of new life through the miracle of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Just when it seemed that all was lost and darkness had managed to put out the world's one true light, he burst from the tomb demonstrating that death is defeated and that darkness can never overcome the light of Christ. The dawn of Spring gives us a wonderful feeling of hope and newness but does not by itself guarantee that hope. Only in Christ are there firm grounds for a hope that is stronger than all life's ups and downs, and transcends even the power of death. In a world of shallow



Pedestal arrangement by Daphne Peat.

promises and broken dreams, Christ is the one light and hope of new and eternal life that will never disappoint us. I commend him to you and wish you all a very happy Easter!

Allan Coutts

Mothers Union Banner Has a New Home

The Mothers Union banner is estimated to be over fifty years old and has spent many years on display in the children's corner in St John's Church, West Ashton. 2014 saw this fragile painted linen banner, depicting the Virgin and Child with a kneeling angel in each corner, requiring a much needed restoration plan. This was carried out by a specialist textile conservation firm in Bristol. The renovation took four months, and a grant had been obtained from the Church Conservation/Care Organisation in London. On the banner's return, the restoration specialists suggested that the banner could be placed on its standing pole as it was in the first instance but recommended that it be encased in a frame to help prolong its life and future legacy to the fabric of the Church. After much discussion on this subject, the Church PCC decided to obtain quotes for a suitable framed cabinet to accommodate the recommendations of the restorers. December 2014 saw the completion of this work and the framed banner is now on show at the west end of the church to the right of the organ. The



frame proved to be slightly tricky, due to size and weight of the wooden structure; it is secured to a metal cabinet for stability. The PCC wishes to thank Ron Pybus for his time and expertise in making this frame. The end result has been welcomed and fits into the décor of the Church very well and if anything, enhances the overall appearance of the banner.

Jean Robertson

Village Hall News

May I start by thanking Ron Pybus for cleaning, stripping, re-colouring, resealing and re-polishing the floor when the hall was not let over the Christmas period, ready for the New Year's Eve event. This entailed a lot of hours put in by Ron, all free of charge to the village hall. I am sure those of you that have been in the hall since it has been done think that it looks very impressive. I would also like to thank David Petrie for landscaping the ground at the back of the hall. David has transformed this area, which looked like a jungle for many years, with shrubs and bulbs, after many hours of digging, planting and much hard work.

In December we had the Christmas Sunday Lunch which was the first time we had tried it, and was well attended, also the annual Family Christmas Party in its new format with everyone having a great time. A special thank you to Frosty the donkey (assisted by owner Clare Humphries) who helped Father Christmas on the night, and all the little elves. Well done Rachel Hobbs and Emma Pursey for organising it. The annual Village v Church Skittles match came up with a surprise. After many years of not winning, the village actually won. A superb ploughman's supper was enjoyed by all. The highest men's and lady's score after three legs went to Rob Hillman and Daphne Payne who both scored 23.



Rob Hillman and Daphne Payne highest scores.

During March we have a quiz night (£5.00), Easter bingo (£3.00+bingo book £1.00), tickets from Sylvia Preston 01225 765858 plus the usual free film night.

As the village doesn't have a village shop or village pub (but the village hall has a bar with excellent prices) the hall is the focus of the village life so please use it or attend events that are put on by the hard working village hall committee.

Vaughan Nichols, Village Hall chairman.

Village Hall 50 Club winners

November - 1st Dale Lloyd 2nd Kevin Pullen 3rd J. Bonome- Maciver

December - 1st Ann Ogden 2nd Tony Mair 3rd Sylv Bee

New Years Eve - 1st L.Bonome-Maciver 2nd Daphne Peat 3rd Dawn Nichols

January - 1st Lucy Pullen 2nd Pamela Piggott 3rd Geoff Davis

Thinking of travelling by Train?

The current electrification of the Great Western Mainline from London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads is the largest project since the war. It is due to reach the Wiltshire area during July and August this summer, causing major disruptions to all services operating through Trowbridge and Westbury. Full details are still being worked out but many services will be replaced by buses which will inevitably mean longer journey times and probably poor connectivity with onward services. The section of the mainline most affected will be from Chippenham to Bath, which will be closed in two stages. Stage 1 is presently planned for the 18th July to the 31st July and will mean severe disruption of the line from Chippenham to Bath whilst electric cables are strung through Box tunnel. Therefore travelling to London via Bath, the route used at the moment, will be via Bath, Bristol Temple Meads, Bristol Parkway and the South Wales mainline, via Swindon, to reach London or an hourly service from Bath to Chippenham by an alternative route and then onwards to London. During Stage 1 the current Bristol to Waterloo service, three trains per day, should run as timetabled, as will the Portsmouth to Cardiff, but with some possible delays. Westbury to Bath should be a near normal timetable. Westbury to London



Paddington should not be affected to any great extent either. The TransWilts Line via Melksham/Chippenham to Swindon will be operated by buses. The Hearts of Wessex line connecting Bristol via Trowbridge and Westbury to Weymouth will also continue during this period but with some inevitable disruption.

During Stage 2, from 1st to 31st August, the Avon Valley line, connecting Westbury to Bath, will be closed entirely. Replacement buses will operate to the stations from Westbury to Bath along that line. Westbury to Cardiff trains after Trowbridge will be diverted to Swindon, with alternate trains calling at Melksham. The Bristol to Waterloo service will not run during August but may start from Westbury. This has yet to be determined. All of this is yet to be worked out in detail, but please be warned of considerable disruption from July 18th to August 31st, especially if you are expecting to book rail journeys connecting with holiday flights. I would not want you to miss your suntan! As details become clearer, look out for the actual running times and don't be caught out! More information will be provided as it becomes available.

*Cllr. Horace Prickett,
Passenger Transport Portfolio Holder,
Wiltshire Council.*

West Ashton School

West Ashton School

So many exciting things have happened since we last wrote in the magazine. The children have been fundraising for Children in Need and raised a magnificent £600+. In order to achieve this they collected pennies to create Pudsey, held a pyjama day and completed a sponsored muddy walk – thanks to the Pike family for allowing us to use their land. In fact the experience was really lovely for the children because in order to complete it, we relied on members of the village, in particular the Workman family, to walk the route and inform us of any hazards that we might face. Mr Pike was kind enough to allow us access to private land to enable us to walk safely and Mr Watkins offered information and advice on routes along with Mrs Workman. It was lovely to have so much support from the village community. On reflection of this wonderful goodwill it made me think of all the people in the community who support and help West Ashton even though they no longer have direct links to the school.

We are so lucky to have a range of governors who are from the local parish community who shape and guide our school, not only in spiritual terms but also practically, giving their time so freely to ensure our school is as good as it can be. We are currently looking for two further governors, so if anybody is interested in taking on the role of governor at our school and has a faith basis in their life, please do email our clerk to governors (Mrs Claire Brown) on westashtonclerk@yahoo.co.uk. The role is not strenuous but does require some evening commitments and some daytime visits to our school.

We are also fortunate to have the good favour of the Church Parish Community who have supported us so kindly in allowing us to have

access to the church so the children can experience awe and wonder in their worship. Having us in the church adds to the cleaning and the attendant duties which are mostly carried out by Mrs Robertson who has been absolutely amazing to us, opening the church early so we can practice there for our Christmas and Harvest service and consistently being available to open up for us on Mondays.

We have also got Mr and Mrs Pike to thank for their wonderful support of the school in allowing us to rent the land which enables us to have a field for the children to run around and enjoy sports on. We are very lucky with the situation of the school, having beautiful views down across the church to Trowbridge and that has only been enhanced by the generosity of the Pike family.

And so in this period of thanksgiving and celebration of Jesus coming to Earth as God's representation, I have considered how lucky we are to have so much support and generosity from the community of West Ashton. I was fortunate enough to meet with many new people the other day at a specially arranged meeting to consider the risks from traffic that our village faces. It was lovely to have such an opportunity to meet so many of our long-term neighbours and discuss the options that are open to ensure the road is safe for all village users especially our children. The school benefits from some residents allowing responsible adults from the school to use their drives to park for a short time. If you would like to do this, please get in touch with me as this means that there are fewer cars parked in the road. Some of the people, understandably, had quite frustrated views over personal incidents and felt that the school was not a good neighbour. This saddened me, as one of our core principles in

West Ashton School (continued)

school is to treat everybody with respect, and with so much respect being shown to us by the community we definitely have a duty to respond to this.

I feel that in our modern world of immediate gratification, we are often at risk of forgetting the key core principles of living together in harmony. People want things yesterday, and I feel I definitely fit into this category at times, but I think that recent events have reminded me, through my reflection, how important it is to appreciate everything we have going on

around us now, and the acts of kindness that so many people show us in so many ways every day. So I would like to start 2015 by saying to the population of West Ashton – thank you. You help make our school the very special place it is and to remind all the residents of West Ashton that we are your school, and if you want to come in and spend time with the children you should just come in and let me know – we are always happy to see you.

Dr. Sam Nash, Headteacher.

West Ashton School - Class of '55



Back row: 1 ? 2 ? 3 ? Napolitano ? 4 ? 5 ? Turner 6 ? 7 ?

Middle row: 1 Peter Noad 2 ? Turner 3 Linda Tucker 4 Elizabeth Haines ? 5 Sally Tucker 6 Amanda Napolitano 7 ? Turner 8 ?

Front row: 1 ? 2 ? 3 ? 4 ? 5 ? 6 Stephen Russell

Photo courtesy Marlene Pike

West Ashton Children's Parties

Halloween

A big thank you to all the helpers who made this year's Halloween party another amazing night. Parents as well as children stepped up once again to have a spooky evening. Apple bobbing, guess the body part and gross sweet eat off, were all part of the entertainment compared by Martin Johnson, our regular disco man. Everyone said at the end of the night, that it had been a brilliant night with both adults and children having a great time.

Christmas party

First the thank you's. Kerrie Thomas, our newest elf recruit, along with Rowena Heard, ran the tuck shop this year. Our resident bar man, Vaughan Nicholas, had help from Paul Hobbs and Laura Pursey. Then we were lucky enough to have a special appearance from the main man



Photo Rowena Heard



Photo Rachel Hobbs

himself, Only Santa! who came along with his local assistant "Frosty", one of our three village donkeys owned by Clare Humphries. All of these people and our four-legged friend need a BIG thank you for making such a wonderful evening. Santa decided to shake things up this year, by reading a story to all the children before handing out a personal letter, a bag of reindeer food, along with a present to all the children on the good list, luckily we didn't have any naughty boys and girls at the party! Our Grotto was used this year for parents to take photos of their children with Santa. Martin Johnson once again stepped up to the mic, brilliantly.

Both of these events are supported by parents and children from the village and the school. We all have a great time and hopefully future events will be bigger and better, Watch this space!

Rachel Hobbs and Emma Pursey

Parents of West Ashton School (POWA)



As a committee, we're always looking to introduce new ideas into our activities and this term our big new event is the Spring Fling! We are very pleased to welcome The People's String Foundation Trio to our school for an evening of energetic foot tapping, shuffling and not a little Dad

dancing! The band is a mix of folk, urban and roots music playing covers and original material, and has gigged all over the South West including the Glastonbury Festival. (On a side note, I was chairing a music judging panel a couple of years ago and Michael Eavis, Glastonbury's founder, was one of my fellow judges. He was a very nice man but I failed spectacularly to get any back-stage passes out of him!). While this is obviously an evening designed for the parents, we haven't forgotten about the children! Earlier in the day the band will be running music workshops for the whole school, split into Key Stage 1 and 2. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to work with professional musicians, to be



The People's String Foundation Trio Photo Neil Bryers

inspired by live music making and a chance for them to tap into their seemingly bottomless well of creativity. Music is something all children can participate in and as a committee we're really thrilled to be able to give the children this experience of exciting music making.

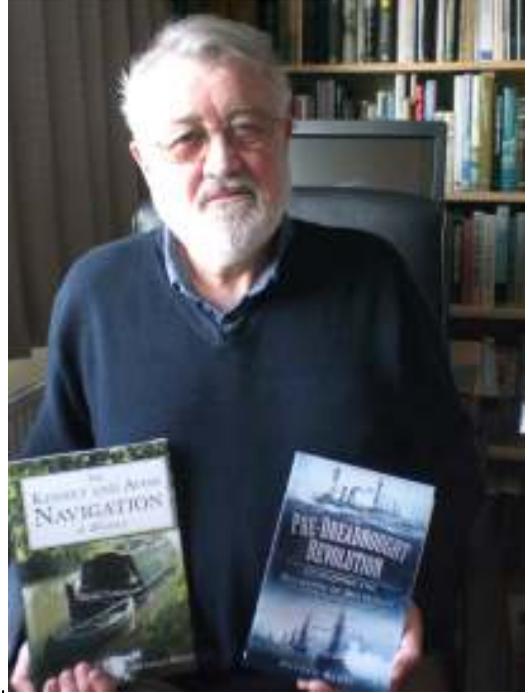
Alastair King, chair of POWA

I'm sure Alastair won't mind me mentioning that he is orchestrator and conductor for many TV and film projects including the Harry Potter films and Downton Abbey. I have tried my best to prise out of him the plots for Downton, but his lips remain firmly sealed. Ed.

Spotlight on - Warren Berry

Warren is a relative newcomer to the village, moving here with Hazel his wife about a year ago. Born in Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, he left grammar school to serve a five year apprenticeship in marine engineering, followed by a period as a ships engineer in the merchant navy. Taking on work on shore once again, he was involved in production engineering and work study. Public sector management consultancy then followed in a number of local authorities including Wiltshire County Council, where he was employed when he took early retirement, and subsequently resumed his academic studies.

With a master's degree in naval history under his belt and a lifetime interest in all things maritime, Warren started to look around for some voluntary research work. Consequently he became involved with the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust at Devizes, working at improving the records system in the Trust's museum on Devizes wharf, taking on the position of museum curator for around five years. During this time he was asked by a publisher to write a new history of the Kennet and Avon navigation system. This was an important trading waterway in the days before railways and efficient road networks, as it stretched across England from Bristol to Reading, and thence via the Thames to London. The Kennet and Avon was a barge navigation, and the Trust museum at Devizes has on exhibit a large scale model of the Kennet barge *Harriet*, built



by Warren from the “lines” and other measurements he took of the actual *Harriet*, the remains of which are beached on the banks of the river Severn at Purton to slow down bank erosion. On viewing the model, a local narrow boat owner told Warren he intended building a steel hulled replica of a Kennet barge with a view to living aboard and, cruising the navigation in her. Warren's research and the plans he developed to build the model enabled the 72-foot replica to be built. The replica was named *Unity* after another famous Kennet barge that traded along the K&A in its heyday, although instead of a deep and cavernous hold, this *Unity* was fitted out to provide quite palatial accommodation for the owner

Spotlight on - Warren Berry (continued)

and his family.

Warren decided to leave the museum to write another book. As his masters dissertation was based on technical change in the Royal Navy, he decided to use this as a basis for the new book, *The Pre-dreadnought Revolution – Developing the Bulwarks of Sea Power*, which was published in 2013. A keen student of all things maritime, Warren intends to write another book, but this time will concentrate on the history of the 18th and 19th century trade in fresh fruit from the European continent and the opium trade to China, both of which involved fast schooners and other small ships.

Wife Hazel's first language is Welsh, she only learnt English when starting school at five years old. Wanting a spacious bungalow instead of the house in which they lived, Hazel and Warren moved to Bratton Road from North Bradley. As Warren says, West Ashton has many pros and a few cons, most of which are associated with the problems of parking at certain times on the road, and the speed and frequency of passing traffic. They both like the open spaces surrounding their bungalow and the village, and are more than impressed by their friendly and welcoming neighbours.

Jo Watkins

A New Friend for Frosty



Frosty's owner Clare Humphries has added Lottie, full name Violets Quest, to the fold. Seven year old Lottie is standing far right. Frosty has been very busy this Christmas, appearing at the Children's party in the village hall, accompanying the school carol singers around the village as well as her usual personal appearances at Christmas services around the area.

Photo: Roger Harrow Words: Jo Watkins

Cyril William George Sweetman - 1924-2014

Eulogy in Rhyme for Cyril (Dad)

Born at number seventy five, in West Ashton lived his life,
His schooldays in the village spent, then off to High School where he went.
At age thirteen declared his mother 'Son you're going to have a brother'
Brian was born in thirty-seven, Dad's much loved brother, together now in heaven

War came along in thirty-nine, at 18, call up paper time.
To fight in Burma he would go, the Japanese a fearful foe.
By parachute did Sweetman find, himself behind the enemy line
Beside his captain, sending morse, the two became a valued force.
One day in riverboat he sat, a bullet went right through his hat.
That must have been a mighty scare, no wonder Cyril had no hair!

In summer nineteen forty-eight, Eve stood outside the cinema gate.
Cyril came a strolling by and Evelyn clearly caught his eye.
Acquainted on a Waldens trip, this time he did not let her slip.
In fifty-two the pair were wed, to East Town Lane was where they'd head.

Their first born child in fifty four, a daughter Angela they'd adore.
Then Sandra born just five years later, their love for her could be no greater.
Ten years from the wedding day, the family were on their way,
Furniture and boxes on a load that headed off to Yarnbrook Road.

In winter of nineteen sixty-two, Cyril decided to build an igloo,
Squeals of excitement filled the air, the girls were cosy inside there.
In sixty-four came fright and grins when Evelyn said 'We're having twins'.
And so at last they had a boy, Adrian their pride and joy.

So what of things Dad liked to do, I'll try to cover just a few.
We know that he was most delighted to play in goal for Trowbridge United.
A lifetime Southampton football fanatic, he motor-biked to all home matches.
Played skittles for the Hawkeridge club, The Royal Oak his favourite pub.

Dad's garden was his lifetime work, with spade or rake or hoe or fork.
Was Dad always in garden found, tending to his precious ground,
Runner beans, tomatoes too, among the many things he grew.
Every summer time was led, by swallows nesting in his shed.
In wintertime the robin stood close by in case Dad dug up food.

Cyril Sweetman (continued)

His dearest friends the storyline, I'll now recount in Dad's own rhyme.

Jan and Barb came to UK all the way from USA.

Neighbour came along one day, said can your wife come out to play?

Barb rang to say yes do please call, when you set out for village hall

Jan went to visit had a stout, lots and lots to talk about.

Found neighbour also did a course at Catterick Camp for learning morse.

One Monday night went out to dine for one last meal at seventy-nine.

On Tuesday they must say goodbye, the tears will take some time to dry.

So farewell friends we'll miss them so, but off to Heathrow they must go.

We'll meet again so never fear, out in the States another year.

True to his word that year did come, the Sweetmans to Wisconsin roamed.

The first of eight trips to the States, a friendship they'd perpetuate.

That friendship brought Dad such great pleasure writing and receiving letters.

To speak about my Dad I'll try, I promise that I will not cry,

But if I do it serves to show, how hard it is to let you go.

A respected man, so witty and caring, his love for his wife needs no declaring.

You taught us how to ride our bikes, you taught us how to live our lives.

Taught me to love my sisters and brothers, you taught me how to care for others.

Goodbye dear Dad your memory's treasured, in my heart you'll live forever.



Janet Sweetman

Bits and Bobs

Steve Lovering tells us that the remains of a concrete area in the field opposite Amouracre Farm, was where Spitfires were tested in WW2.

Vacancy. Do you know of an experienced, reliable cleaner/housekeeper to work in Westwood, Wednesdays 10.30-2.30pm @ £10 per hr? Excellent references required. Phone 07718 655139 for more information.

WE NEED YOU

To help us make

West Ashton 'The Small Village of the Year'

(not forgetting Rood Ashton, East Town and Dunge).

It does not have to be the conventional big overflowing tubs or hanging baskets. It could be any creative combination of flowers, shrubs, climbing/trellis designs, bracken & straw, lovely trees, creative hedgerows or areas of wild beauty.

During June/July West Ashton Parish Council will arrange for a panel of judges to nominate three residencies which make a statement of:

'Creativity and Flare providing visual pleasure to everyone'.

A **first, second** and **third** prize will be awarded by the Parish Council. There will be no rules or entry forms, we just want you to display whatever beauty you feel you can manage.

You don't have to apply to enter, but it would be really helpful if you let us have your views or suggestions which may make this venture a success for our village.

Please contact Angeline Nicholson 01225 777452, angelinenicholson@hotmail.co.uk or visit the West Ashton website - www.westashton.org.uk .



Photo of a bumble bee on teasel by Diane Mills Photo of East Town by Paul Workman

Useful Information

Village Hall activities

ALW School of Dance	Children inc pre-school, Miss Amy Watts 07772 176 684
Ballroom Dancing	Mr. Kevin Burge 07933 771205
Dance Class	Dee Dee Wilde – 01380 871608
Dog Training	Mrs. Rosemary Banfield 01380 870574
Dolly Mixtures Art Class	Mrs. Kay Norris 01985 840157
Tai Chi	Mr. Brian Wooding 01985 213474
Wives Group	Mrs. Marlene Pike 01380 870272
WI	Mrs. Eileen Eggleton 01225 769636
Yoga	Mrs. Angeline Nicholson 01225 777452



Village Hall Bookings Angeline Nicholson 01225 777452 or email angelinenicholson@hotmail.co.uk

Builder	Paul. New build, extensions, renovation specialist, alterations. 19 Bratton Road Tel: 01225 753997/07799 563347
Butcher	Free delivery to West Ashton customers 0117 986 3260 or email banablebutchers@gmail.com
Electrician	Chris Parnell 01225 764874 or 07875 372940
Foot Reflexologist	Annie Ritchens Tel 01225 752002 Mob 07967630429
Garage Services	Briken Motors Garage....MOTs, servicing etc, Tel 01225 755203
Good neighbour Co-ordinator	Emma Curtis 07584 101092 or trowbridgegnc@communityfirst.org.uk
Judo Classes	Age 8+ W. Ashton School 7.00-8:30pm Fridays. Mike Healy 01373 822349. www.zenjudoclub.co.uk
Library	Mobile Library Van visits Orchard Close alternate Fridays 1.40-1.55pm. From Sept 12 2014 onwards.
Milk	Bullings Dairies deliver Tel: 01225 776494
Newspapers	Seend Post Office deliver Tel: 01380 828250
Parish Council	Chairman: Mr Richard Covington Tel: 01225 761904 Clerk: Nicola Duke Tel: 01373 864127
Police	Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Village Co-ordinator Mr David Bradley 01225 754100. Neighbourhood Policing Team PC Mark Hough PC1140 can be contacted on the non-emergency Wiltshire Police tel no 101.
Refuse	Collection days vary - seek local advice. Community skips in Canal Road, Trowbridge for larger items.
Seamstress & Soft Furnishings	Clare Humphries, curtains, dressmaking and alterations Tel 01225 767703 Mob 07929 122631
St. John's Church	Services Sundays 10.30am. Rev Allan Coutts Tel: 01225 754826
West Ashton Boomerang	Taxi service. Mon-Sat West Ashton to Trowbridge. Price each way: adult £1.60; child 80p; children under 4 free. Bus passes can be used. Morning pickup 9.30am, return 12 noon, afternoon pickup 12.10 return 2pm. Tel 0800 371297 to book.
West Ashton C of E School	Headteacher Dr Sam Nash Tel: 01225 754354
West Ashton Ladies Skittles Team	Mrs. Betty Cronan 01225 755908
West Ashton Oil Club	Craig Nichols 01225 774476 or email craigmnichols@hotmail.com

Coming Attractions

What's On in West Ashton

March

Wed 4th

Wives Group, 7.30pm Village Hall, Holiday Memories with Richard and Jean Covington.

Sat 14th

Quiz Night, Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets £5 (to include Jacket potato). **A Village Hall event.**

Sun 15th

Mothering Sunday service 10.30am in the church.

Wed 18th

Parish Council meeting. 7.15pm, Village Hall

Fri 20th

Film Night, to be arranged. **A free Village Hall event.**

Wed 25th

WI AGM, with sales table, Village Hall 7.30pm.

Fri 27th

End of school term.

Sat 28th

Easter Bingo, entrance £3 to include light snack. (bingo books £1 each). 7.30 for 8pm. **A Village Hall event.**

Sun 29th

Palm Sunday service, 10.30am in the church.

April

Wed 1st

Wives Group, 7.30pm Village Hall, Birds Eye View of an Investiture with Sue Roberts.

Fri 3rd

Good Friday, 'An Hour by the Cross', 2pm in the church.

Sun 5th

Easter Day service, 10.30am in the church.

Mon 13th

Start of school term.

Sat 18th

Richie's Fun TV Night. Tickets £12.50 to include 3 course Meal. 7.30 for 8pm. **A Village Hall event.**

Wed 22nd

Village Hall 7,30pm, 'Strange Things Do Happen' with Sue Marshfield.

Fri 24th

Film Night 'Mr. Turner'. **A free Village Hall event.**

May

Mon 4th

School closed

Wed 6th

Wives Group party, Village Hall 7pm

Wed 13th

Annual General Meeting and annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 7.15pm.

Sat 16th

Caribbean Themed Night with Richard Clifford. Tickets £11.50 7.30 for 8pm. **A Village Hall event.**

Fri 22nd

End of school term.

Wed 27th

WI topical issues discussion, Village Hall 7.30pm.

June

Tues 2nd

Wives Group outing to Sidmouth.
Start of school term.

Tickets : Village Hall events - Sylvia Preston 01225 765858

Village Hall email address: westashtonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

All Village Hall events with licensed bar and raffle.