



The West Ashton Magazine

Issue 47

June 2015



Rood Ashton House

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



www.westashton.org.uk



The West Ashton Magazine is published quarterly by the West Ashton Parish Council. WAPC has devolved full authority for the magazine to an independent volunteer Editorial Group formed for the sole purpose of producing this magazine. The intention is to inform and entertain the residents of West Ashton. The magazine is distributed free of charge to all residents of West Ashton village. The Editors warmly invite you to submit reports, articles and photographs relating to past or future village issues and events, or any subject that may be of interest to the readership. The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions and make corrections, omit material or do minor reorganisation to any submitted work and reserve the right to reject any submissions. We prefer typed or electronic material. Photos will be returned on request.

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Editorial

The magazine has been very lucky to receive a generous donation in memory of the late Cyril Sweetman. This will keep us going for some time we're pleased to say. At the time of writing, the sun is shining and all is well with the world. There is nothing like a bit of sunshine to bring the villagers together for a walk up and down the village. It's fatal to work in the front garden, as it's so easy to stop for a natter, but who cares, that's what village life is all about. Which brings us onto the subject of the village hall. The last two events have

had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Obviously Chairman Vaughan Nichols would like to hear what you would like organised - fresh ideas please. One of our main village assets is the surrounding footpaths. We are so lucky we have the right to roam. This is why the WI is organising a footpath walk followed by cream teas in the village hall on June 14th to celebrate the signing of the Magna Carta. Feel proud of our lovely countryside and join in the celebrations,

Jo and Paul.

Situations Vacant

After much consideration, the editorial team has decided that the time is right to move on. After eleven and a half years of recording everyday life in the village, they're looking for someone to put their own stamp on the magazine. With Jo Watkins and Lis Mercer as founder editors, Peter Hughes as founder publisher and Mike Stainer our printer for several years, Paul Workman was later welcomed on board. When future researchers and historians need to find out about village life in Wiltshire in the early 2000s, they will be amply rewarded with interesting and fascinating snapshots of West Ashton and surroundings in the pages

of the magazine. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has been involved over the years - contributors, funders, the parish council and the delivery team. The quarterly magazine is a valued part of what's going on in the village and if you enjoy meeting people and being at the cutting edge of village life please get in touch with our parish council chairman, Richard Covington tel 01225 76190 for further details. Perhaps a group or friends and neighbours would consider taking it on. We urgently need an editor (or editors) for the September magazine onwards.

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Parish Council Matters

1. Website

1.1 West Ashton website

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

2. Planning

2.1 Since the last issue of the magazine, Wiltshire Council has embarked on further variations to the Core Strategy. They have decided that the 2,600 houses proposed in Ashton Park should be increased by a further 1,339, and has published a Development Document Plan (DPD) for 'informal' consultation. A copy of the Parish Council's comments will be posted on the website.

2.2 Proposed A350 improvements, West Ashton – Yarnbrook

2.3 Public Announcements 24th April 2015 - Pegasus Group have given notice that Ashton Park Trowbridge Ltd & Persimmon Homes Ltd is applying to Wiltshire Council for planning permission for a mixed use development comprising residential (up to, 2,500 dwellings - Classes C2 & C3), Employment (Classes B 1, B2 & B8), 2no. Local Centres (Classes, A1-A5, D1, C2 & C3), 2no. Primary Schools, Secondary School, Ecological Visitor Facility, Public Open Space, landscaping with associated highway works and Yarnbrook and West Ashton Relief Road.

2.4 Wind Farm – No further news on

Grange Farm but the application for a single wind turbine at Thoulstone has been refused, details can be found on Wiltshire Council's website

<http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx>

Planning application 14/08778/FUL

2.5 Parish Governance Boundary – This is on hold until after the General Election.

2.6 The plot next to Beechwood -The Parish Council opposed this planning application on two occasions. At Wiltshire Council's Western Planning Committee, it was unanimously rejected the first time and the modified application rejected by a majority. The applicant subsequently took both applications to appeal using written submission, not a hearing. The Parish Council having been successful on the previous two occasions but it took one inspector to uphold the appeals for both applications. The lot is now up for auction by Strakers in Swindon on the 14th May, circa £70,000. Builders, Nick and Tim (who built the new house a little further up the road on the site of the old farmyard) are not interested as the plot is too small to be a practical proposition for them. The plot owners are clearly not interested in the views of the Parish Council or local residents/villagers.

2.7 Two Planning applications supported by the Parish Council were refused by Wiltshire Council planning officers:

Parish Council Matters (continued)

Converting Agricultural Land to Garden; allowing an agricultural worker to live in the existing mobile home at Oakstone Farm (after the new house has been built). Localism doesn't seem to be succeeding as hoped for.

3. Other Matters

3.1 Dog Fouling – Not much to say on this at the moment, it's still an issue but seems less so. However, it still remains extremely unpleasant for all when it does happen, and if anyone sees this happening please report it to PC Mark Hough. The footpath between Bratton Road and Rood Ashton House runs across private land with cattle often grazing in the field. Please keep your dogs on a leash when walking footpaths at all times whether cattle are grazing or not.

3.2 Field behind the houses - Conveyance of the land north of Bratton Road is now complete and for anyone venturing along the footpath and across the field towards Rood Ashton Manor will have spotted the fencing that in most cases extends 20 metres into the field. I'm sure everyone is happy with the outcome.

3.3 Fly Tipping – Please call Wiltshire Council on 01225 777234 or email clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk if you see any.

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

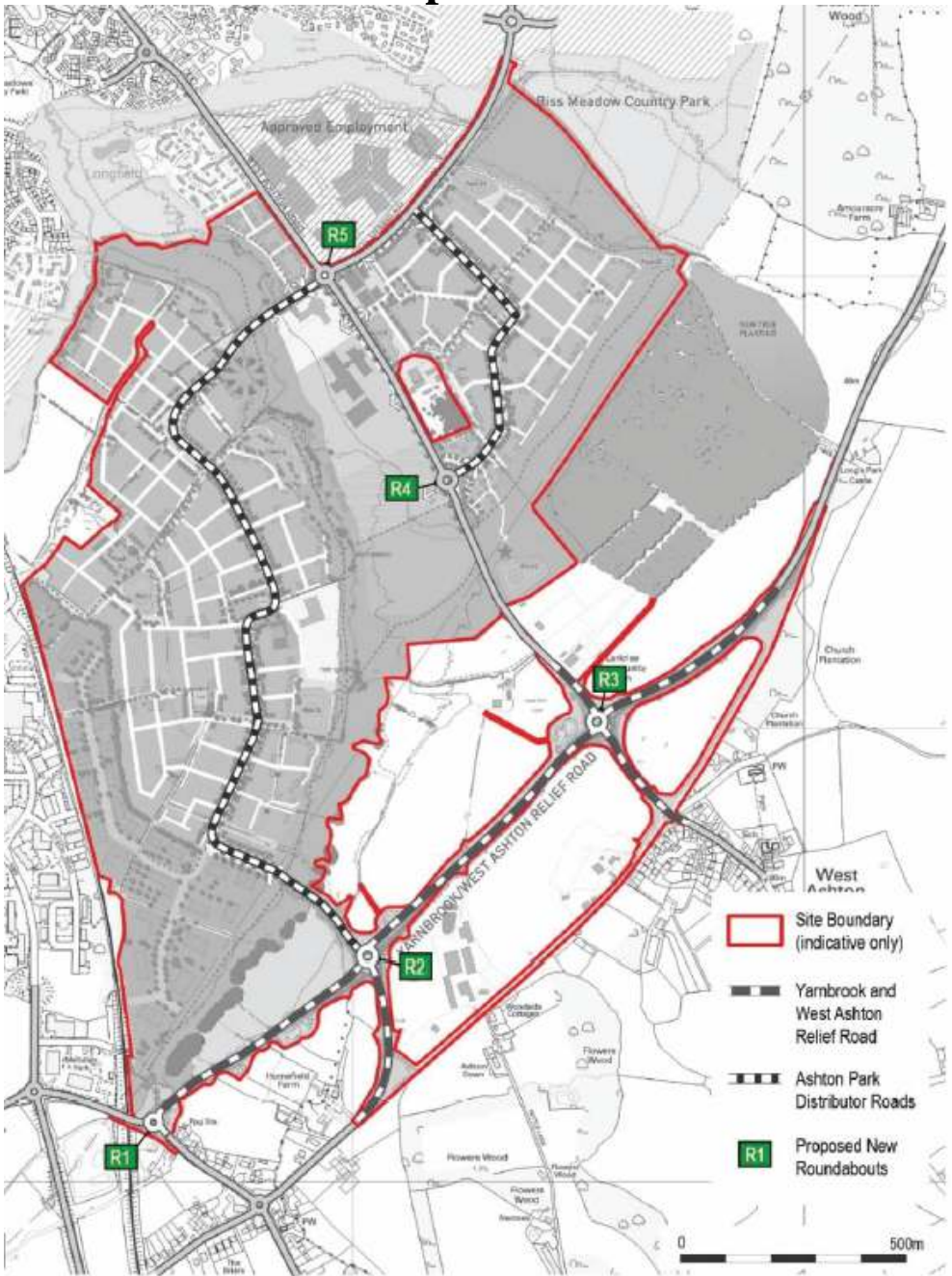
3.5 Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Back in full swing now and if you would like to be involved please contact Nikki at westashtonpc@outlook.com. It is usually only an hour a month so not too demanding and does help in encouraging vehicles to keep to the 30 mph limit, unfortunately not everyone abides with the speed limit.

3.6 Traffic calming – This was raised this with the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) on the 20th April, an assessment is expected in the next few weeks so hopefully this will progress. Options: Gated Entrance to the village; speed humps; flashing school signs.

3.7 There has been another application to hold a music festival at Grange Farm on 18th -19th July. It went off well last year so hopefully no problems will arise this year. However another organiser has applied to hold a festival on 12th - 13th September in the same place to run from Saturday 1300hrs to 0500hrs the following morning and alcohol to be available for all but the last hour on the Sunday. A New Premises licence has been applied for but not as yet granted, A representative of the Parish Council will be attending the Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) meeting, which is due to take place with the applicant to assess event safety and the Parish Council concerns on highway safety.

Richard Covington, Parish Council
Chairman

Ashton Park Masterplan 24/03/15



Parish Council Matters



Fields behind houses in Bratton Road before land purchased by residents (Para 3.2)

Photo Ian Harris

Letters to the Editor

On Easter Monday I parked our car on Bratton Road for four hours whilst allowing visiting family members to park on the drive. On returning to the car, we found to our horror that it had been hit by an agricultural vehicle, which had hit it from the back all the way down the passenger side. It must have been by some sort of ploughing equipment as it left deep gauges all the way along the car. This was the first time we have ever parked out on the road, not seeing it as a risk, as many cars are left parked on the road

opposite our house every day. I just want to point it out to everyone in the village that never assume your vehicle is safe on the road, as so many agricultural vehicles travel up and down Bratton Road with wide equipment on the back, and the driver was probably not even aware of the damage that was caused.

*Trudy Houkes
14B Bratton Road
West Ashton*

The View from Above

As you read this, I guess some of us will be preparing to jet off to some exotic (or not so exotic!) holiday location. Or, like me, be itching to climb a mountain or two in Scotland or the Lakes and survey the view from the top. If so the following observations may be of interest. In Ephesians Chapter 1, verse 3, St Paul writes:

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. (The Message Bible)

I love flying. I love everything about it. I love the feeling of acceleration as the plane races along the runway to take off. I love the moment you realise you are no longer in contact with the ground. I love the thrill as you punch through the customary British cloud base into clear blue sky and glorious sunshine. I like the food, the in-flight entertainment... I even like waiting at the airport! But the best bit of all is when it's completely clear from 30,000 feet to the ground – I always go for a window seat, not over the wing – and you can see vast areas of the globe laid out below you and the curvature of the earth beyond. Once I was coming into London and for some reason (probably because we were in a queue to land) we hadn't started our descent as we flew over the Channel. The whole of my native county, Kent, was laid out beneath me. My first, rather stupid, thought was: *Oh, so the maps are right then!* You could see all round the Kent coastline, the Thames Estuary, and a large part of

London. It was an amazing opportunity to view a familiar landscape from high above. More recently I had a similar experience on the top of Wetherlam near Coniston from where I could pick off all the familiar peaks of the Lake District laid out before me in golden sunshine! There are several advantages of having a view from above. First you get the context; you can see the plan. I knew Kent pretty well, having spent the first 18 years of my life there, but now I could see how it all fits together, how one part relates to another. From above you get the big picture, the long view.

Commenting on this, former bishop of Durham Tom Wright says, *Only by understanding and celebrating the larger story can we hope to understand everything that's going on in our own smaller stories, and so observe God at work in and through our own lives.*

Secondly, the view from above puts things in proportion. My aerial experience left me in absolutely no doubt that London is a big place! But my small Kentish home town was not even visible to the naked eye! So much of what we stress about is just not that important in the big scheme of things. Viewed from *the high places of blessing in Christ*, we can see what really matters... and what isn't that important. It puts things in perspective. Whether you are going away or staying put this summer, may our Lord take you to those high places and give you the view of a lifetime!

Allan Coutts

Mothering Sunday



Above:
Mothering Sunday was a cold and blustery day. Alix Hobbs presented her mum with a bunch of flowers, while Isla Covington helped give out some sweets.

Right:
Mum Kay Kamunga, with baby Zara and son Dean who gave out some treats Easter morning



Larkrise Farm News

During a weekend in March, the farm exhibited at the West Country Smallholders Show at Shepton Mallett. Three staff attended Saturday and Sunday with the help of Trustees and RDA Volunteers. The animals exhibited were our two miniature donkeys, Maddy and Petal, rabbits

and guinea pigs, and a selection of poultry. The show was attended well by the public on both days drawing in interest for farm visits and Riding for Disabled enquiries.

Wessex Rural Crafts have donated and planted approximately 50 assorted trees, these have been planted in the Apiary Area. Talking about the apiary, if there are any budding *or* *buzzing* beekeepers out there that fancy having a stab at beekeeping, then we can offer a hive and a space in our apiary for hire to set up their own working hive! If interested then please get in touch with either Wendy or Ashley on 01225 751675.

In the recent high winds, we lost one of our field shelters from the track into the field, much to the two cobs surprise! (I wonder which one was



Top 'n' tailing piglets

wearing the Red Shoes!) I'd like to thank the lads who work for Ashton Farms for coming down the same day to retrieve the field shelter for us.

This was done with great ease from the experts!

Spring sprung early this year at Larkrise with 18 lambs born between January and March and 16 piglets in March. All are growing up fast so come along and see them before they find new homes!

That's all for now.

Wendy Self, Farm Manager

View the new Larkrise Farm video: <http://youtu.be/332Kz19OjY8> for everything you need to know about the farm

Walking the Walk

A Saturday morning in mid-April saw us set out on a short walk across the fields of West Ashton. What a great spring day this was, sun, sporadic cloud and a carrying breeze, one of those days when it felt good to be outdoors. I say carrying for two reasons, firstly the scent borne from the flower border next to St. John's church and also the vociferous song from a high-perched blackbird, the sound from which accompanied our progress for some distance. Also at a distance the breeze was sufficient to cause the lengthening grass of the fields to ripple in the same way as can be seen on a stretch of water, creating a sort of 'sea' of green. Footpath 1 takes you across the fields from Bratton Road to East Town Road, the beginning direction of which is now easier because you just need to follow the course of the recently erected fence – it takes you down the slope to a hedge and stile. Evidence of the farming year was found in the large expanse that lies adjacent to East Town Road, as this field had been left fallow. As we followed the path across, out of curiosity I happened to



pick up a random piece of stone and on examination found it contained a scallop shell fossil! As our return journey took us back down Bratton Road I couldn't help but notice a number of bees hovering just above a stretch of grass, these were Miner Bees.

Miner Bees, of which there are apparently 100 species in this country, generally nest in the ground, usually on lawns, with small mounds of soil being the tell-tale signs of their presence. Some species live communally, whilst others are solitary but there are usually not too many to cause harm to a lawn. These creatures are good pollinators of fruit trees.

Paul and Margaret Workman

Ladies at Leisure-West Ashton WI & Wives Group

Just to let everyone know what the ladies of the WI have been up to since our last edition of the West Ashton Magazine.

In January Ann Poole gave a talk on Textiles and Art, how, after teaching for many years, she changed course and went into making and creating collages and many other items with different materials. She has worked with all different age groups, from primary school children to pension groups. After her talk, she put bags of materials and thread on each table for us to join in and try to make a small brooch, some of us were much more 'crafty' than others, but a good time was had by all.

Our February meeting was all about Wiltshire Place Names with Martyn Whittock who was very informative and entertaining, explaining how a lot of our town and village names came to be. Some go back centuries to the Viking and Saxon times, and how they have changed over the years to become the names we have today. It was very interesting, and makes you look at our local area in a different way. Our March meeting was our AGM where had the reports of the year from our Secretary, Treasurer and President, after which we all voted for our new committee. This was followed by a quiz, with the winners each

receiving an Easter egg. In April, Susan Marshfield gave a talk on 'Strange Things do Happen', to include funny events in her life from camping to rescuing a frog from her toilet. In May we hold our annual resolutions meeting followed by fish and chips while in June we will have our mystery trip with only the drivers on the evening knowing where our destination will be. This is enjoyed by everyone as we usually bring a picnic, but more of that in the next edition.

Our cinema club has seen a variety of films ranging from 'American Sniper' directed by Clint Eastwood and based on a true story to 'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' which was very enjoyable, very funny and had everyone chuckling, to 'Suite Francaise' again, based on a true story about a love affair between a German officer and a French villager in WW2. Our Busy Bees group have been real 'busy bees' working very hard on the West Ashton WI banner for the WI centenary, with some members going to Tidworth in April to show off our handy work. The banner will be on display at our monthly meetings so please come and join us. Many thanks to Jo Watkins, Holly Westlake and Carol Griffiths who worked on the banner, a special thanks to Geoff Watkins for adding the finishing touches.

On the fourth of June, Barbara Webb will be travelling as our delegate to the WI Centenary Annual Meeting in the Albert Hall. On Sunday the 14th June we have organised a 'Magna Carta' footpath walk, celebrating our right to roam, followed by cream teas in the village hall. Please come along and join in with our walk and meet some of our members.

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)

Wiltshire Federation of WIs 2015 Centenary Celebrations at Tidworth

We arrived at the Wellington Academy in Tidworth to a welcome cup of tea and an opportunity to look at the various stalls with a variety of goods on sale. This was followed by the opening ceremony in the main theatre. Isobel Acott, Wiltshire Federation chair, welcomed us with a reminder that the centenary of Wiltshire Federation is in two years time. Mrs. Broom, the Mayor of Salisbury opened the event speaking highly of the influence that the WI has had and will have, not only on womens' but other important issues. Following this, we moved to our respective demonstrations. I attended the clematis and coppicing demonstrations, while other members attended the candle making and woodturning. On completion of the demonstrations we all met up for our picnic. The many celebration cakes depicting Wiltshire scenes were cut, and the ceremonial toast to the future of the

WI with a glass of fizz, performed by the county chair.

After our picnic, the banners, of which there were many, ranging from state of the art embroidery, paintings, photos, to a potted history of a particular town, were paraded by a representative from each WI group. Then the entertainment programme commenced. This consisted of Belly Dancing with Wafaa Powell, 'One Hundred Years of the WI', a play performed by Redlynch WI and a 'Sing Up Celebration' with Jo Sercombe to the song 'Happy Together'. This was followed by the raffle and our closing song 'Jerusalem'. After that it was time to go home. It was good to meet friends from other branches, swap stories have a laugh, and appreciate what a huge amount of planning and work went into making this event so successful. The day was excellent and most enjoyable.

Carol Griffiths, West Ashton WI

Wives Group

In February, our speaker was from the Bobby Van Group and gave us lots of tips on how to keep ourselves and our homes safe, while in March Jean and Richard Covington shared their lovely holiday photos and memories of their holiday in Peru. In April Sue Roberts gave us a talk and a film of when she was presented with her MBE by the queen at Buckingham Palace. We look forward to our end of season party in May – yet another end to an enjoyable year, how time flies!

Sylvia Preston.



Jean and Richard Covington in Peru

The Field of A Million Moles

The winter of 2014/15 has produced, now and then, some surprisingly bright sunny days, albeit a little on the chilly side. One of these days was the Tuesday after Christmas, and in a bid to escape the surfeit of turkey, telly and chocolates, I headed up Bratton Road towards Dunge. As I have described before, walking in the countryside can sometimes conjure unexpected sights and experiences and this occasion was no exception. I had diverted my path across fields, with views towards the Westbury White Horse. Here and there I noticed fresh molehills underfoot and thought no more about them, however after taking in the views and deciding to return homeward I noticed something extraordinary. By



casting shadows, the low angle of the sun revealed thousands (and I mean thousands) of little hillocks, grown over molehills, presumably not trampled down because of infrequent grazing. The more I looked the more amazing the sight became because of the sheer numbers and the thought of the energy involved over time, of the dozens, if not scores of moles, whose efforts had created them.



Another Sunny day appeared in early January and I decide to do a bit of litter picking from East Town Road to nearly as far as Dunge. You've heard of Gin Alley – how about Wine Bottle (Bratton) Road!

Paul Workman

Solar Eclipse in West Ashton



Photo Chris Moore

The Solar eclipse over West Ashton, we won't be seeing this phenomenon again for a number of years.

The Clean Team

Some of our cleaning team who keep the church looking pristine at all times. Unfortunately some couldn't make it for the photo session. The church was built over 150 years ago and with the regular services, school children and visitors, including a few bats fluttering about, hats off to the team for their dedication and hard work.



Village Hall News

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee I would like to thank Evelyn Sweetman and family for the donation that was given to the Village Hall in memory of Cyril Sweetman. As many of you know Cyril was a mine of information about West Ashton, having lived in the village all of his life, and was a Village Hall committee member for many years and always supported the Village Hall whenever he could. On Saturday 18th July a Skittles and BBQ has been arranged when the winner will be presented with the Cyril Sweetman Skittles Cup.

In March we held a quiz night which was a great success with the winners being Margaret and Chris Moore and their friends Lynda & Brian Cooper - well done. However, It was with deep regret and sadness the committee made the decision to cancel both the Easter Bingo and Richies Fun TV Night due to lack of support. A lot of hard work goes into the planning and preparation for these events so it is always disappointing if any have to be cancelled. We try to arrange a varied programme of events throughout the year which will appeal to most people and bring the community together. Obviously we do not always get this quite right, so we would like hear your views of why you do not support the events and what you would like to see included in the future.



Last years fun fruit and veg show winners.

You can e-mail your views to me at flowerswood@o2.co.uk or why not attend the AGM which has been arranged for Wednesday, 5th August 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Vaughan Nichols, Chairman

Village Hall 50 Club winners

February – 1st Wendy Bartlett 2nd Pat Foster
3rd Ann Stride

March – 1st Sheila Jones 2nd Jackie Bradley
3rd Geoff Davis

April – 1st Ursula Jenkyn 2nd Michael Shiles
3rd Pam Norris

Parents of West Ashton School (POWA)



In the last edition of the magazine, I wrote about how much we were looking forward to the visit of the band The People's String Foundation Trio to the school and thought it would be good to let you know how it all went.

The band of Ben, Zaid and Chris were in bright and early for the start in school bringing with them a selection of instruments including electric violin, guitar and double bass. The two Key Stage 2 classes (Eagles and Ospreys) were then introduced to the band who then burst into one of their numbers. I'll probably never forget the look on the childrens' faces as their collective jaws dropped! I saw one child mouth "Wow, they're amazing!" to another and from that moment I knew it would be a very good day indeed. The band not only exposed them to live music but got them involved in musical workshops and even the creation of a new song which occupied the two classes up until lunchtime. After lunch the band worked with the younger children in Robins and Skylarks

classes and created a similar reaction from the children.

The parents who attended Achievement Assembly at the end of the school day were then treated to performances by the band and the children on the music they had created together. The children went home full of high spirits and musical inspiration. But the day of live music wasn't over. Those parents who returned to school in the evening were amazed to see the hall transformed into an intimate gig venue with stage lighting, sound system and an even greater array of instruments. A banquet of bread and cheese kept the enthusiastic audience well fed as the band bounced through their set of original numbers. The sustained applause throughout the evening was a good indication of how well appreciated the musical skills of the band were and everyone felt they had witnessed something very special in the most unlikely of places. Will they be back? I certainly hope so!

Alastair King, chair of POWA

West Ashton School

As I write this, we have just celebrated Easter and experienced some glorious weather to celebrate the rising of Jesus Christ. It also provided my family and I the opportunity to go out and about to our favourite place of Exmoor where we like to walk and lose ourselves in beautiful scenery. School took the opportunity over the holiday to get a clean and we were very lucky to have our stage lights, bought due to the generous donations of friends and school families, fitted to our ceiling. Hopefully we will be able to get them working for West Ashton Has Talent! which is due to take place on the 17th April. This new addition along with the recently fitted black out blinds (thanks once again to POWA) should enable us to produce some more sophisticated shows for the children's delight.

As I look forward to the exciting term ahead I think about the challenges that our year 6 children will soon be facing. Firstly the SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) that all year 6 children (10-11 year olds) are expected to sit in reading, writing and maths. This is the last time the children will be taking these tests, because as from 2016 there will be new tests to reflect the new national curriculum. This is the last year we can think in levels, because from next year the children will have reached the expected level, exceeded it or maybe not reached the expected level. The expected level is a single mark to reduce ambiguity and is a benchmark of expected ability to ensure children leave primary school secondary ready. After SATS, year 6 will be facing the long wait to see how they did, usually about two months. We get the results in around the second week in July. After SATs the children have a whirlwind of activities such as Junior Good Citizen to attend, treat visits to Paulton's Park to reward them for their hard

work and preparation for secondary school; where they go on visits, have visits in our school and complete some activities which they will possibly continue in September at their new school as a transition. Along side all of this, they are busy preparing for the summer production, always a highlight in the year (come along if you have the time, our afternoon performances usually have spaces!) and the important leavers services at our local St. Johns and Salisbury Cathedral. These services mark a rite of passage for the children as they prepare to embark on their next stage towards adulthood.

This term is always hectic, no matter how much I think I have planned for it and prepared for it. It feels like that for me, as somebody who controls the apparent mayhem year after year, so what must it feel like for our children who only experience it once as a year 6. As yet again we face a changing world of primary education and examination, I need to remember who we are doing all this for - the children, and in my rush and organisation, I must remind myself to take the time to reflect on the individuals in my care. I always imagine that all our pupils have great lives ahead of them with so many opportunities, but as both the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury reminded us in their Easter speeches, there are many trials and tribulations that our young people may have to meet and conquer on their path to adulthood. Let us hope that the skills and happiness we provide for them at West Ashton will support them through and help them to succeed. Hopefully our children will look back on their time at West Ashton with a smile and many happy memories – probably of that hectic last term when they went on their visit to Paulton's Park!

Dr. Sam Nash, Headteacher.

West Ashton School



Presentation to Save the Children Fund 1975

Left Juliette Coward and right Sarah Griffin, does anyone know the identity of the lady?

Chris Williams emailed in response to the Class of '55 photo in the last magazine: - Thank you once again for the latest West Ashton magazine which I read with great interest, although I would like to comment on the picture of the teachers and pupils at the School. Although the teachers are not named they are my late mother Mrs Frances Williams (back left) and her long time colleague the late Mrs Audrey Rudd. Regarding the date of the picture,

1955 seems too early as there are pupils pictured who were born in the early 1950's and who are older than me, born in 1954. This would make the date of the photo 1958 at the earliest or more probably 1959.

Congratulations



Above: Jackie and David Bradley, Bratton Road, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in January. Jackie is WI treasurer, and village hall committee member, and David is our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Top right: Paul and Margaret Workman, Bratton Road, celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary in April with a holiday in Tuscany, Venice and Florence. Paul assists with the magazine and is also our footpath warden, and Margaret is a parish councillor.

Below right: Eileen Whale celebrated her 80th birthday in the village hall, with friends from St. John's and St. Thomas's. Eileen is a member of St. John's congregation, with her husband Des often officiating at church



In Memoriam - The Hon. Anne Long 1931-2015

Anne Long: “A warm, kind and much loved lady, held in high regard” – thus began the eulogy delivered at Anne’s funeral at St Mary’s Church, Steeple Ashton on Thursday 12 February 2015.

Born in 1931 in Jersey, daughter of a retired Naval Officer and a homemaker mother, Anne stayed on the island until the outbreak of WWII. She was evacuated to Devon and there developed a lifelong fondness and care for animals, particularly horses. After the war she returned to Jersey to care for older people.

At the end of the 50’s Anne moved to Eastbourne and then took up the position as senior matron at a boy’s preparatory school at Westerleigh, St Leonards on Sea. The congenial atmosphere amongst the staff and friends there created a happy home for her and she earned the nickname ‘Bubbles’ both because of her personality and her enjoyment of drinks parties – though not to excess!

She moved back to Jersey to care for her aged mother and after her passing Anne met up with an old friend whom she had met in Eastbourne, the Honourable John Long (brother of Lord Long of Rood Ashton). Eventually they were to marry and settle down together at Highworth near Swindon.

John died in 2010 and although lost without her partner, nevertheless Anne’s sociable spirit lived on as your Editors can testify. Anne was always keen to hear news about West Ashton and she received copies of our village magazine every



quarter. We only met with Anne twice but if anybody could leave a big impression on you, she was that person.

Anne’s passing was sudden an unexpected and: “May we all remember Anne Long as a special person who was generous with her time and affection”.

*With grateful reference to the eulogy to Anne long.
Anne is now laid to rest in the Long family vault at St. John’s Church, West Ashton.*

*Jo Watkins
Paul Workman*

In Memoriam- Robert (Rob) Nigel Pike 1960-2015

Rob was born in East Town and lived in Rood Ashton. Starting working life in the butchery trade, he also regularly helped out on his father's farm. About twenty years ago, he started his business hiring out marquees for local weddings and other events such as music festivals, the most prestigious being Glastonbury. His son and

daughter intend to carry on their father's marquee hire and more recent logging business. A true countryman, he enjoyed outdoor pursuits including shooting, fishing and especially going to parties. Rob will be greatly missed by his wife Elaine, children Ben and Rhia, his three grandchildren, family and many friends.

Jo Watkins

The Long Family Revisited



A piece of masonry from Rood Ashton House demolished in the 1960s?

William Long (nephew of Walter Long, late M.P.), Innkeeper of Trowbridge, was accused before the Privy Council in 1632 of ill-using a King's Messenger, Jasper Heily, and the accusation was backed up by Thomas Waight, of Trowbridge, mercer. The story is told in Wiltshire Times, March 14th, 1908.

Information supplied by Steve Lovering

Photo Jo Watkins courtesy of Julie Edwards.

Then and Now



Fred Roger's yard, Bratton Road. William Amor haymaking time (date unknown).



Thanks

The Cancer Research committee would like to say many, many thanks to all of you who supported us in February at our Big Breakfast. You helped us raise over £800.

Sylvia Preston.



CANCER RESEARCH
CREAM TEAS £5, VILLAGE HALL
SAT JUNE 27th 3-5pm

CYRIL's GIRL
Gardening Service
Special rates for Elderly Parishioners
Call Janet Sweetman on
01380 871182



West Ashton WI invite you to the

Signing of the Magna Carta

Celebrations on Sunday, June 14th 2015

*Everyone is invited to a footpath walk and/or
cream tea*

Walk leaves the village hall at 2pm

With a little bit of history

Thrown in.

*Afterwards join us for a Cream Tea in the
Village Hall 3-5pm Adults £4 Children £2*

With Raffle

*Did you know that King John never did sign the
Magna Carta because, he couldn't write!*

*Please telephone Jo Watkins
01225 753196 if you would
like to come along.*

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
Foot Reflexologist	Annie Ritchens Tel 01225 752002 Mob 07967630429
Garage Services	Briken Motors Garage....MOTs, servicing etc, Tel 01225 755203
Gardening Service	Janet Sweetman 01380 871182
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

June

Mon 1st

No school, Teacher Development Day

Tues 2nd

Wives outing to Sidmouth. Tickets £5 from Sylvia Preston.

Sun 14th

WI Magna Carta celebrations Village Hall. Footpath walk leaves Village Hall 2pm. Cream teas 3-5pm.

Wed 24th

WI Mystery Trip. Depart Village Hall 6.45pm

Sat 27th

Cream teas in aid of Cancer Research, Village Hall, 3-5pm £5

Fri 26th

Film Night Village Hall

July

Sun 5th

Lunch Time Village Hall open for British Grand Prix

Fri 10th

School Family Fun evening 5-8pm. Inflatables, activities, tombola, BBQ and refreshments.

Wed 15th

Larkrise Farm AGM

Sat 18th

Skittles (Cyril Sweetman Memorial Cup) and BBQ

Wed 22nd

No school, Teacher Development Day

WI, Village Hall 7.30pm. 'Women in the Army in WW1' with Dan Allen

Fri 24th July

Village Hall Film Night

August

Wed 5th

Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm

Sat 22nd

Larkrise Farm Open Day

Wed 26th

WI. Guided walk around Steeple Ashton with Ken Rogers. Meet at St. Mary's Church 7pm.

Afterwards refreshments at King's Arms.

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.