



The West Ashton Magazine

Issue 48

September 2015



Church Poppy

**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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ISSN No.: 1742-6685

Editorial

Time for a change for the editorial team. Firstly a BIG thank you to Jo and Paul for all their efforts in producing the excellent West Ashton Magazine over many years. Sadly, they have decided to hang up their pens and move onto pastures new. Jo will be pursuing her other interests or maybe a well-earned rest and Paul his art and multitudes of other hobbies the magazine has

encroached upon.

The new editor(s) have a tough act to follow but hopefully we will be able to maintain the high standards set and continue to make the magazine interesting and amusing.

Just a reminder; during the school scarecrow walk on the 26th and 27th September there is a garage sale, perhaps that would be the right time to de-clutter before Christmas.

Our New Editor Introduces Herself

As I write this, the rain pours down and the grass looks lush, yet I know autumn is on its way where we say goodbye to the swallows as well as the swifts and the clement weather takes a turn.

In the same token we have to say 'Adieu' to Jo, editor since the launch of this community magazine in 2003, and with Paul as assistant editor for the last several years. Over this time they have kept us informed of the goings on in the village making us feel that we belong, that the people in the village aren't total strangers.

In a world where there is so much division anybody that contributes to the bringing together of people to form a community needs to be applauded. So here's to you, Jo Watkins and Paul Workman, words are not enough to express the huge thank you from the village.

Invitations to contribute...

We are currently looking for contributions about:

- ◆ A village ghost story real or funny?
- ◆ Introduce us to your pet and their antics? With photo?
- ◆ Anybody want to contribute a 'day in the life of'?
- ◆ Crossword/wordsearch/puzzle maker
- ◆ Joke maker???
- ◆ Thoughts on high speed broadband.
- ◆ Thoughts on what makes a community.

Email your contributions or I'll come and interview you if you prefer. You don't have to write anything up fully, notes will do just email your thoughts to...

lexiwalker83@yahoo.co.uk

I look forward to continuing with the legacy generated by Jo and Paul.

Thank you and 'Hello'.

Lexi Walker

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 It would appear that building work on the plot next to Beechwood is likely to start soon. The Parish Council opposed both applications but unfortunately they were both allowed on appeal by the inspector. Hopefully, since West Ashton is classed as a small village, there will be no more unnecessary infill building.

2.2 Proposed A350 improvements, West Ashton – Yarnbrook (update). A meeting was hosted by Larkrise Farm about the development in Ashton Park and the A350 Road improvements. There is concern with this development in the way it will impinge on the activities of the farm, particularly access and its ability to provide a tranquil educational environment for their disabled students. Similarly the scouts will have a re-routed A350 closer to their campsite and perhaps more worrying, houses in close proximity to the campsite on the Ashton Park development. Mitigation for both is the objective so that both can maintain the necessary environment for young

people.

2.3 Parish Governance Boundary – There is no new information

3. Other Matters

3.1 Broadband – An update was expected by the Wiltshire Council’s Broadband team by mid 2015. The response to my email requesting an update is as follows: *We have now completed our procurement and evaluation for Phase 2 and we are currently working through the high level plans to enable us to announce the winning bidder, Phase 2 timeline and the postcodes that will be included in Phase 2. Phase 2 work is not scheduled to start until 2016, however we want to make the information available as quickly as possible to allow any communities not in Phase 2 to look at alternative solutions. We hope to have information about Phase 2 funding available on the Wiltshire Online website in early September.*

Follow up email: Are you in any position to indicate whether West Ashton is likely to be now included in Phase 2. If in the unlikely event it is not, can you clarify what you mean “allow any communities not in Phase 2 to look at alternative solutions”.

As you can well imagine we are under

Parish Council Matters (continued)

pressure to provide information about Phase 2 plans as soon as possible but, in fairness to all communities, we need to make this information available to everyone at the same time hence our commitment to publishing the information on our website in early September. As part of the work we are currently undertaking, we are not only looking at those postcodes who will benefit from Phase 2 funds but also looking at those that won't; despite the extra funding, we still won't be able to reach every community in Wiltshire unfortunately.

In addition, we are in the process of putting together information about alternative technologies that residents / communities who will not benefit from the extra funds may wish to explore. We are also looking to provide information to our Area Boards about communities not included as we hope they will be able to help and support any communities who wish to undertake their own community funded solution. Please note that we continue to lobby central government to provide extra funds to allow us to reach the hardest to reach areas (the final 5%) but at this stage it may well be that the final 5% will have to look to alternative technologies or community funded

solutions.

There you have it, frustrating isn't it! One parishioner has written to Mr Vaizey MP regarding his comments on the Today Programme about Superfast Broadband rollout, copying Andrew Murrison and the Today Programme. In essence: *living in a small hamlet about 3 miles from the County Town of Wiltshire and about a mile from the cabinet providing telephone/broadband service, which has been supplied with fiberoptic cable under the Connecting Wiltshire programme, there is no discernible plan to provide Superfast Broadband to the hamlet and indeed West Ashton.*

3.2 Fly Tipping – Now that Wiltshire Council is reducing the number of days and hours in the day that recycling centres are open, we may see an increase in fly tipping in the area. Please call Wiltshire Council on 01225 777234 or email clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk if you see any.

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

3.4 Traffic calming – A Wiltshire Council officer visited West Ashton in June and has produced a report suggesting four traffic islands at an estimated cost of £30,000, whereas I suspect a couple of rumble strips or

Parish Council Matters (continued)

speed humps would be a more practical solution.

3.5 Music Event at Grange Farm –

When I first wrote about this in the June magazine information was limited but the Parish Council was led to believe we could attend the Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) meeting. The purpose of the ESAG was to assess the safety and security plans put forward by the applicant including highway issues. The Parish Council was NOT allowed to attend the ESAG meeting although the applicant was. Our concerns had to be submitted in writing, which we did. The outcome was that the event could go ahead with no apparent change to the plans. The outcome therefore is:-

The alcohol licence application was approved and the event will be going ahead on the 12th and 13th September at Grange Farm. Unlike the previous event in July this is specifically for over 18's with the alcohol licence from 1 o'clock

on the Saturday afternoon to 4 o'clock the following morning, music to finish at 2am. The numbers allowed are up to 3,000 with most camping overnight, it is also anticipated there will be 1,000 cars. Residents living nearby have been offered one night's hotel accommodation during the event. This would perhaps indicate that the event will be noisy and potentially disruptive to the village. Please let me know if there are any incidences so that we can raise them as issues with Wiltshire Council and build a case if an application is made to repeat the event in 2016.

The event is described as 'Electronic, Underground Music Festival' and their website is http://www.thefestivalcalendar.co.uk/festivals/Field_trip_2015

Richard Covington
Parish Council Chairman

Letters to the Editor

The editorial team have received a letter from some parents that are unhappy with West Ashton Primary school. The letter listed their areas of concern and whilst it was important to bring this to the attention of villagers, particularly those with children at the school we declined to publish it until the content could be verified with the school. The letter has been forwarded to the school for comment.

Our Church Matters

When 33 miners were trapped in a Chilean mine in 2012, deep under the earth's surface, they must have felt totally lost and doomed to a slow and painful death. We cannot comprehend how they must have felt when a message reached them from the ground above that a rescue team knew exactly where they were and that the process of getting them out had already began.

There are times in all our lives when we feel like we're stuck in a really bad place; alone and anxious; we despair that we are out of options and that no one understands where we really are in the path life.

St. John's Church is a bit like that, currently there are three or four



St John's Church, West Ashton
Trearbridge, Wiltshire

major projects in hand; all needing specialist attention and much funding - even the band of loyal church members keeping things together are struggling with the endless tasks.

The fact that God knows where we are and that He is very

much aware of the difficult situation we are in provides us with the confidence and strength needed to live for His glory and to carry on (Bible Reading Revelation Ch.2:13-17). More detail of the Church projects will follow, but if you wish to know more or can help, please contact the Churchwarden (Jean Robertson).

"When we're weary in life's struggles, find strength in our faith".

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A Triple Baptism at St John's, West Ashton

It was wonderful to welcome Kay and Francis Kamunga and their three children, on 21st June, to St John's Sunday Morning Service. The three children were to be baptised during the service. The childrens names are : Dean Taurai Chikomborero (a blessing), Sasha Tavonga (thank you, Lord) and baby Zara Mufaro (the joy of the Lord). The family live in Shepherds Drove and the two boys attend West Ashton School. Revd. Allan Coutts officiated at the service. The giving of lighted candles signifies the light of Christ and welcomes them into the family and fellowship of the Church. After the service, the congregation were invited to share in the family's



celebration by the provision of scrumptious cakes made and provided by Kay. All enjoyed the tasty treats and thanked Kay and Francis for their kindness.

Larkrise Farm News

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Once again, the farm has experienced a busy few months. We have taken the donkeys to an Open Day at Widbrook Riding Stables accompanied by a few chickens etc. The donkeys have also visited Westbury Court Care Home for their Beach Party Day in June; they behaved impeccably when introduced to our local MP, Dr Andrew Murrison.

All our young stock has now been sold and left the farm; time to start again!

Our car park was getting a little cramped as we have a steadily increasing number of people coming to enjoy the joys of the farm. So to enhance visitor experience we have extended the car park allowing people to visit with ease. Do come and see...

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED:

During June two of our 'Riding for the Disabled' (RDA) Riders attended the RDA Warminster Gymkhana at the Warminster Saddle Club. An enjoyable day was had by all, with both riders coming away with rosettes!

At the moment we are trialling a new RDA pony called Cassie, so we can semi-retire Clipper who has now turned 24. His slight arthritis and Cushing's means he finds it tiring to do lessons with the school children twice a week, as well as individual lessons. Clipper is excellent for confidence building for new and nervous riders so will be used on individual lessons only and Cassie



will take over the weekly school lessons. The RDA is always in need of help. If you are interested do please get in touch with Wendy on 01225 751675.

WHAT'S NEXT?

On Saturday August 22nd Larkrise Community Farm held an Open Day from 11am until 3am, to celebrate our 10 year Anniversary at the current site. There was a Tack Sale, Pony Rides for children, crafts and lots more. All were made welcome and chats about the animals and their lives were divulged (stories to come). If you want to visit us and the animals our opening times are Monday to Friday 10am -3pm, weekends by appointment (01225 751675) a small fee is charged. Do come and meet our animals and staff, we're all very friendly.

Wendy Self, Farm Manager

West Ashton Wives Group & Friends

The annual coach outing in June to Sidmouth was enjoyed by all. We were blessed by sunny weather. We are now looking forward to the new season starting in September. Hope to see you all then.

Events are:

2015

- Sept 2nd Wiltshire Folk Lore by David Ovens
- Oct 7th My Life in Prison by Trevor Griffiths
- Nov 4th A Wreath for Christmas by Daphne Peat
- Dec 2nd A Christmas Party with Carols etc. and a glass of wine

2016

- Jan 6th New Year Bingo
- Feb 3rd The History of the Magna Carta by Paul Workman
- March 2nd The World of Bats by Alison Rasey
- April 6th Our Trip to Botswana by Jean and Richard Covington
- May 4th End of season party
- June 1st Annual coach trip

We meet every first Wednesday in the month in the Village Hall for a light-hearted get-together. £1.50 entry. EVERYONE WELCOME

Sylvia Preston

West Ashton Footpath Report August 2015

Saturday 8 August 2015

Footpaths Nos. 1, 3 and 10 – These were walked and are all clear.

Footpath No. 3 is at present clearly defined by tractor tracks.

Nine of the stiles along the above paths were cleared of weeds and overgrown grass.

The stile on footpath 1, which is on the Steeple Ashton side of the lane near Heath Hill, has a slightly unstable plank.

website -

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/rightsofway/publicrightsofway/mapping.htm>

Paul Workman

West Ashton WI

ALL THE LATEST DOINGS...

By the time you read this, summer will be nearly over and Christmas getting closer and all the work that goes with it.

In April our speaker was Susan Marshfield whose talk was 'Strange things do happen' which was about strange things that happened to her and her husband and some of her friends, Susan was very entertaining, she had everyone in fits of laughter with her tales, and it was a very enjoyable evening for everyone.

Our May meeting as usual was to discuss this year's resolution, which was NHS Continuing Care. Everyone took part with their views on the subject and we had a lively debate with the views swinging first one way then the other. The vote was recorded in favour and we rounded off the evening with a fish and chip supper.

Barbara Webb was our delegate at the AGM at the Albert Hall on the 4 June with the WI celebrates its centenary this year, this was a prestigious occasion attended by Her Majesty the Queen, the Princess Royal and Duchess of Wessex. In line with our centenary celebrations, one member from every WI in the UK was entered into a ballott to attend the WI Centenary Garden Party held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, on 2nd June, hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall. Jo Watkins represented our branch, and was one of over 8000 members attending. To celebrate 800 years of the signing of the Magna Carta, on Sunday June 14 we organised a footpath walk with cream teas afterwards. The walk was open to everyone, with Paul and Margaret

Workman as guides giving us an account of the impact the Magna Carta had on towns like Trowbridge and villages such as West Ashton (See Paul Workman's article). Other members who didn't come on the walk, helped to get everything ready in the village hall for the return of the walkers and other friends coming to join us for the cream teas. A very big thank you to Holly Westlake for making the scones and jams, which were delicious, and Margaret Moore for making the Magna Carta cake and Wendy Bartlett for providing the basket of fruit for the raffle. Also, a big thank you to all the helpers for all their hard work in helping to make it such a success.

In June our meeting was a mystery trip, the navigators were given the directions to our destination, which turned out to be the White Horse Pottery in Westbury. Trevor Picton the owner told us how he came into the business which he now owns and is very successful. He explained about the different types of clay and how it is fired and then showed us how to make a big fruit bowl and a jug. The event ended with a picnic on the White Horse, yummm!

WHAT'S COMING UP...

In September we have the History of the Bra; October is Eighteenth Century Bath and November is Christmas Flowers.

If any of this interests you why not come along and join us? You are very welcome.

Eileen Eggleton, Joint President.

West Ashton Village Hall

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

The Skittles and BBQ evening was well attended and the winner with the highest score was Carole Anderson who was presented with the Cyril Sweetman Skittles Cup by Evelyn Sweetman (*see article right*). My thanks go to everyone who helped on the night and made it such an enjoyable evening.

The AGM was held in August and I have agreed to be chairman for another year. I would like to thank, Jackie Bradley, Richard Covington, Rachel Hobbs, Tim Le Mare, Sylvia Preston, Emma Pursey and Jean Robertson for agreeing to stay on the committee for a further year. Angeline Nicholson has stood down and I would like to thank her for all her help and support. If anyone would like to join the committee please contact me, telephone 01225 765296. After the formal proceedings cheese and wine was served and I would like to thank my wife Dawn for providing and serving these.

Many of you may have noticed the flowers tubs in front of the hall which have given a wonderful display and has enhanced the front of the hall. Two benches have been purchased in conjunction with the Parish Council in memory of Peter Westlake and Cyril Sweetman who both did a lot for the village (*see photo right*)

WHAT'S COMING UP...

Enclosed with the magazine is the programme of events being held in the village hall, get the dates in your diary or pin it on your notice board. If you would like an e-mail reminder just e-mail westashtonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk We start in September with the Last Night of the Proms (bring your own picnic), the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup plus the England v Fiji game and film night, see the notice board outside the village hall for the film being shown. All of these are FREE to enter and the bar will be open. In October the West Ashton Fun Players have got together again to perform another Murder Mystery and included in the price of the ticket will be a three course meal.

MANY THANKS TO...

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank Jo Watkins for all the hard work as editor of the magazine since it was first started in the days of WACAP (West Aston Community Action Plan). It was a sad occasion when the village was told in the last magazine that she was stepping down as editor hopefully this will not be the end of the magazine!

Vaughan Nichols
Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

The Cyril Sweetman Memorial Cup

Cyril would have been tickled pink to see the family event held on his behalf in the Village Hall one evening in July. Cyril, who passed away earlier this year, was a stalwart of the village for so many years and was held in high regard by all those who knew him. His family generously donated a cup to go to the winner of the skittles match held that evening.

Evelyn Sweetman was delighted to present the cup to Carole Anderson, the highest scorer, with Vaughan Nichols looking on. Vaughan and his wife and family provided the barbecue for what proved to be a most sociable evening.

Jo Watkins



Once Upon a Time in the West Festival



*West Ashton
16-19 July 2015*

A Resident's View...

I had an inkling of what the festival was going to be like because my daughter did voluntary work at the same festival in 2014. However, never having attended a music festival before, I was still a little uncertain as to what to expect. So with our "Concessions-for-Residents" tickets I, together with five other West Ashton villagers, went along on the opening Thursday evening.

First impressions were that the event was professionally organised with efficient security fencing, greeters on the gate, parking attendants, and an accreditation tent, where we all got our wrist bands to

allow us admission. The arena held two performance tents, a number of outlets for festival clothing and hats, a book stall in an old bus, a recorded music stage, a coffee bar and, of course, a beer tent. The overall atmosphere was relaxed with most people chatting in small groups, with ages ranging from 70 down to one year olds, and even younger! Friendly conversations were to be had with a number of people, including two from Frome, a couple from Surrey and some from Shropshire, as well as the friendly security staff.

The evening saw performances from various artists, mostly Wessex based, in only one of the tents and it was what I would describe as "good time" music – some folk, some rock, some folk/rock but all compelling the audience to dance (or

Once Upon a Time in the West Festival (continued)

jig about in my case!). And everywhere smiley faces. My personal enjoyment was such that I returned on Saturday night for more of the same. Music was being performed simultaneously in either of the performance tents on this night so there was something of a to-ing and fro-ing of the audience. Once again everywhere friendly, smiley faces. There was a lot of drinking and some extravagant costumes, which certainly added to the festival atmosphere, but not once did I see or feel anything untoward. Basically everyone went to have a good time and from what I saw that is exactly what they did.

Walking back home to the lower part of West Ashton it has to be said I could still

hear the music clearly - this was just after 11.00pm. However I was told, and I witnessed it in operation, that an electronic device was used to regulate the direction of sound from the musicians.

I feel that the Once Upon a Time Festival is something good for our area and that the sound issue might be tolerated for a few days each year. The irony seems to be that the organisers of this particular festival, going about it in the correct manner, have unwittingly paved the way for two other music events on the same site.

*Paul Workman
Aged 62*



An Azure Demoiselle pair, spotted in Colin Delves' garden in Spring.

West Ashton School

WE ARE ONLY CUSTODIANS OF THE SCHOOL AND ITS VALUES...

When I became the Head Teacher of West Ashton Primary School I was proud and excited but also apprehensive. The responsibility of steering a school, ensuring that it continues to go from strength to strength, can weigh heavy on the shoulders of those in leadership like the governors and head teacher – we are only custodians of the school for a short time compared to its history and every decision we make can be monumental to the school.

We are always very careful when we are appointing that we employ people who respect our values and support the vision of our school. As a result we have a very dedicated and strong team; a staff committed to making the most of opportunities for all children in our care; having taken on new staff this year this commitment will continue along with new ideas and dedication to the school and its pupils.

The number of children in our school has varied over the years, reaching highs of 110 and lows of 15. This year we are going to be lower than 100 children, which present new challenges to us, as a school, due to the current funding allocations. In the past small schools have been supported by governments; this has now significantly changed and the future for small schools is much more uncertain. The political move now is that small schools (under 295 pupils) become part of bigger conglomerates preferably as a business model such as an academy.

As a Voluntary Aided school we are in a fortunate position where we have the same autonomy as academies due to the support offered by the diocese and the fact that the diocese owns our buildings and controls what happens with them. We are also privileged to have the support of local land-owners, the Pikes, who have allowed us to rent the field area of our school for a very reasonable sum each year. We have a beautiful location where the ancient occupants of the village envisaged a place of learning for our future children and a long history (165 years' worth) of quality education with a Christian basis. What could be better?

What I have learnt over the last two and a half years is that although we are a small school we are also a good performing school dedicated to the pupils in our care. Ups and downs will come and go in the life of our school but the important thing is that each decision we make reflects the vision and values that define our school. The most important aspect of leading a church school is that there is an understanding in the ethics and values of that school. All educationalists can be successful, as the variety of academies in Trowbridge are proving, but what matters in our school is that we uphold our values.

I said when I joined West Ashton we can only comfortably hold a 115 children and that continues to be our target number. Viva West Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School!

*Dr Sam Nash, Headteacher
West Ashton Primary School*

West Ashton School Banner - Missing!



Have you seen our banner? Primary School's very own Summer mystery...

Mystery abounds as the banner to celebrate West Ashton Primary School's OFSTED rating of 'Good' and the availability of pupil places disappeared under an ether of Blyton mystery.

Following the recruitment of fantastic teachers and the latest successful Year 6 achievements at West Ashton Primary School a celebratory banner was placed at the entrance of the village to inform passing potential parents and the village community of the school's OFSTED rating and the opportunity of pupil spaces; keeping the school open and viable to Wiltshire's local communities.

The school has not discovered any clues as to who took it or received any communication of why it's been taken.

'I can't understand it,' says Headteacher, Dr Sam Nash, 'We had to obtain special permission from the planning department at the council to have it erected where it was,

not to mention the money spent to make it and erect it. We have reported its loss to the police and appeal to anybody out there that if you know where it might be we would love to have it returned as soon as possible.

West Ashton has hosted a school for the last 169 years offering a Christian education to the people in and around the local area. The school has undergone a transformation of facilities over the past two years as Dr Nash and her merry team have overseen its suitability for the latest learning requirements. 'We are very keen to share our success with new learners,' she enthuses. 'Our school offers a local village feeling with the added bonus of the church viewed across the fields out the back. We have installed the latest technical IT along with calm classrooms so our children can enjoy their learning.' A friend of the school has offered a small reward to anyone who can return the banner to its rightful place.

If you can help Dr Nash she can be contacted on..... admin@westashton.wilts.sch.uk or by calling the school on 01225 754354

Parents of West Ashton School (POWA)



Welcome to another update from POWA but before you read this any further, you may notice the absence of the usual casual witticisms and comic quips?!?! Yes, Alastair King has sadly moved to pastures new and therefore resigned as Chair of POWA. We thank Alastair for all his hard work, commitment and the charisma he brought to POWA, he will be missed and big shoes to fill indeed!

The sun smiled on us last July at POWA's annual Family Fun Evening. Everyone rallied around to make the event a huge success, all made possible by the organisational skills of our inimitable Secretary, Kate Brown. The attractions included inflatable bouncy play equipment, BBQ, bar, glitter tattoos, tombola and entertainment provided by the glorious vocal stylings of the West Ashton School Singing club under the direction of Mrs Porter. An added attraction was brave Lottie Bence, who had her beautiful hair cut to raise money for Cancer Research and to make a real hair wig for a child with cancer. An amazing little lady.

Through the support of many parents and staff the event was a huge success with all money raised going to enhance the school experience for the

children. These are such special formative years, it was a privilege being amongst all the smiles and laughter, even though my glitter tattooing skills were really quite limited!

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

I hope you're having a wonderful summer!

Mari Webster
Chair of Parents of West Ashton
(POWA)
mari.webster@hotmail.co.uk



Magnolia tree in the garden of Manor Farm

West Ashton Primary School is hosting a scarecrow trail.



Scarecrows will be appearing around West Ashton on the 26th and 27th September 2015 between 12 and 4pm.

Take a walk, have some fun and enjoy being out in the fresh air.

There will be a prize for the first correct trail pulled out of the bag at the end of the weekend.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available in the school hall.

Come to West Ashton's Scarecrow Trail

Bring your family and friends

and

have a wonderful time whilst supporting our amazing school.

£2 per trail

Note from the editor, there will be garage sales on those days.

Community Spirit Builds WA Village Hall

Prior to WW1 the village hall did exist but as a small brick building situated in the centre of West Ashton. Following the Great War the village community decided that they needed a larger building but lacked the funds. The solution was to raise money by putting on an annual pantomime to raise the required monies. Evening performances ran for a week, usually in the month of January, and were very popular.

All the clearing of the site of scores of tons of soil and the consequent digging out the foundation trenches was done voluntarily by the menfolk of the village; community spirit prevailed aided by the free bread and cheese and beer to any

volunteers! In September 1922, the foundation stone for the new hall was laid by Lady Doreen.

The new hall consisted of the main hall with stage and dressing rooms and the pantomimes continued to be performed for a few more years. It seems that someone outside the village was so impressed by the village efforts that they gave an anonymous donation of £250. The cost of the hall altogether was £750 the same amount it cost to build the church back in the 1840s.

Paul Workman

Source; Edward Barnett, churchwarden of that period, extract from old church magazine. Thanks to Beryl Webb for providing us with a copy.

West Ashton Magna Carta Celebration Walk

Magna Carta – The Great Charter – one of the most important documents for England and democracy. The historical date of its sealing was 15 June 1215, and so on Sunday, 14 June this year, at the suggestion of West Ashton WI, a Parish area walk was organised by way of celebrating the 800th anniversary. Members of the WI, villagers and interested friends gathered outside the Village Hall for a walk across the parish fields. They were accompanied by the village local historian, Paul Workman, whom had been asked if he would kindly research and present the Magna Carta story. Paul chose to break it down into three separate short pieces which gave the walkers a chance to have three ‘breathers!’

Paul’s first brief covered the aims and purpose of the charter giving an insight to its importance. His second piece was extremely interesting as many of us

locals were unaware of the significance of our area in this part of English history. Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Baron of Trowbridge, was one of the twenty- five Barons elected to monitor the implementation of Magna Carta principles. Trowbridge was where he based his operations during this period - making the town one of only two which had Magna Carta Barons in the South West. The final talk covered the overall effects on ordinary people (or not!). The walk was a great way of bringing us villagers together, its length was just right and it also introduced some of the group to previously ‘unexplored’ territory in and around Rood Ashton. At the end everyone had the opportunity to tuck into cream teas – kindly provided by members of the WI – as well as to read a doggerel rhyme about Bad King John that Jo Watkins had found and copied out.

Paul Workman



The WI would like to thank Paul for what must have taken hours of research and also for planning the route.

From the Archives

THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE 10 YEARS AGO

The inaugural meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was held in the Village Hall, organised by Dave Bradley, Roy Piggott and Tom Hill. 25 residents turned up, and Mark Abbott, The Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Reduction Officer for Wiltshire and PC Mark Newbury our village constable were speakers.

In the parish council matters report, it was stated that planning applications had reduced to a trickle. No more had been heard about the Manor Farm developments, but it was felt that it was to be a matter of when, and not if. There were concerns about dropping the West Ashton Relief Road from the Westbury Eastern Bypass Scheme and the Bypass proposal, which provided no relief to the nearby villages as well as West Ashton. Constant representations were made about the state of Bratton Road through the village as well as the speed of traffic not only through the village, but on the C49, the road from the traffic lights into Trowbridge, especially since Larkrise Farm was up and running.

As runners up in division two, West Ashton skittles team looked forward to playing in division one the following season.

Under the new licensing laws, the



Village Hall invested in training a licensee, so instead of being limited to 12 licenses a year, they would be able to open the bar whenever they liked. Work on the extension was planned for summer '06.

The Ulster Unionist Party celebrated its centenary, and to commemorate the event, sent a wreath to St. John's church, where Lord Long, its leader between 1906 and 1910, is buried in its vault.

Jo Watkins.

Bits & Bobs



Ken Rogers has identified the lady in the photograph on page 19 of the June magazine as Miss Bronwyn Morris, headmistress of Trowbridge Girls High School. The little boy to her immediate left as you look at the photo is Tom Rogers, Ken's son.



Primroses on the bank opposite the village hall. Is that an Anderson shelter peeping over the fence?

WANTED LOCALLY A KIND CARING PERSON

TO LOOK AFTER, (part time) A LOVELY LADY

The person we are looking for would be needed for the occasional day/evening in the week, some weekends and over short holiday periods. Also be prepared to stay overnight sometimes and therefore be experienced in a 'hands on' caring situation. The lady in question is mobile but needs a helping hand. It would have to be someone who likes dogs as we have two, both loveable and friendly.

If there is anyone who might be interested, please contact us on 01380 870 489/909 or text 07958 730 737

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

September

- Tuesday, 1 School Term Starts
Wed, 2 Wives - Wiltshire Folk Lore by David Ovens
Saturday, 12 Live Last Night Of The Proms -Free Event - Family Evening -
Bring A Picnic & A Flag
Weds 16 Parish Council Meeting – 7:15pm
Saturday, 18 Rugby World Cup - Free Event - Doors Open 7 pm - Opening
Match : England V Fiji
Friday, 25 Film Night - Free Event
Saturday, 26 School Scarecrow Trail
Sunday, 27 School Scarecrow Trail
Sunday, 27 St. John's Church Harvest Festival Service - 10.30 am

October

- Friday, 2 School Children's Harvest Festival Service - 9.30 am
Sunday, 4 Harvest Festival Lunch - Village Hall - 12.30 for 1 pm - Tickets
£12.00
Wed, 7 Wives - My Life in Prison by Trevor Griffiths
Friday, 23 Film Night - Free Event
Saturday, 31 Murder Mystery Evening - Tickets £12.50 with Meal

November

- Wed,4 Wives - A Wreath for Christmas by Daphne Peat
Sunday, 8 St John's Church Remembrance Day Service - 10.30 am
Weds 18 Parish Council Meeting 7:15pm
Saturday, 21 Las Vegas Cabaret Night - Tickets £12.50 With Meal
Friday, 27 Film Night - Free Event

December

- Wed,2 Wives - A Christmas Party with Carols etc. and a glass of wine
Sunday, 13 Sunday Christmas Lunch - Tickets £11.00

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.