

## Stoke Road Christmas Tree

Sandra Lemon, helped by Abbey Campbell and Brenda Malin, decorated the pine tree in the Millenium Garden for the Christmas period and it looked great.

We think it would be nice to start a new local tradition to decorate the pine tree each Christmas. We will put a reminder in the AVN before Christmas 2009 asking for volunteers to help decorate and for donations of robust tree decorations.

Well done to Sandra, Abbey and Brenda.

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### Roots Weekend 17 to 19 July 2009

We need your help.

- \* How do you remember Ashton as it used to be?
- \* Have you got any interesting stories of the village or events that happened here in the past
- \* What about any old photos or postcards that you could loan to the Roots group or copy/scan for us.
- \* Perhaps you have relatives that have moved away that might have glimpses of the village's past.

We are trying to build up some history records and photographic displays so that life in this changing village, no matter how long ago, can be recorded and shown to all those that visit us this year and in future years.

If you have got anything that you think might help,  
please contact:-

Andrew on 862904 or Marion on 864254

If you would just like to help out in the background sometime during the weekend, please contact us as there will be lots of events happening where we will need assistance.

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#### Useful Contacts

Towcester Police Station Western Area 01327 300300

**Police Community Support Officer** - Tara Cooksammy

Parish Council Chairman - Bernard Day 862383

Direct line 01327 303228 Mobile 07919 043778

Parish Council Clerk - Ginny Wareham 864463

E-mail - tara.cooksammy@northants.police.uk

Ashton District Councillor - Martin Wilson 864254

Village Internet Site - www.ashtonvillage.co.uk

Footpath Warden - Jeremy Roychoudhury 864306

Neighbourhood Watch - David Farrand 863225

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Letters or Articles for A.V.N. to David & Delia Farrand, 20 Hartwell Road Telephone 863225

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# ASHTON *Village News*

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## The Knight's Hall Official Opening and Dedication Sunday 18 January 2009

The pupils at Ashton Village School selected the name for the open space in the church from the suggestions sent in by locals. It is to be called The Knight's Hall.

The official opening and dedication of the refurbished Church and The Knight's Hall will take place on 18 January during the Family Service at 10.30am. The Archdeacon of Northampton, Rev. Christine Allsop, is coming to the service to mark this event.

We would like as many people from the village as possible to come along to this service to see the new facilities and to bring ideas and suggestions of how it can be best used. The PCC are keen to see a variety of activities, which will serve the whole community, taking place.

### Hidden skills in Ashton?

Now that the reordering of the church is almost finished, it would be a wonderful opportunity to recognise the occasion by making some form of decorative banner to hang in the new Knight's Hall. Ideally we would like it to be a community venture with people of all ages getting involved. The banner would be made up of several sections and could include embroidery, machine sewing, material collage, tapestry, etc.

A coffee evening is to be held at Bron Kenny's house (67 Stoke Road) on Monday 22 February at 7.30pm to discuss the idea. The project will need any one who is artistic or can sew (not necessarily to a particularly high standard!) or would like to help support by sponsorship towards the materials. If you do not feel able to help, you may know someone in your family who would like to take part in some way.

Do come along for a chat or, if you are unable to come on that particular evening but are interested in the idea, please ring Bron on 01604 864914.

## Message from our District Councillor

Village residents will have heard of the credit crunch -obviously! -but not many will realise the impact it has on our local authority, that is South Northants Council. The impact is in fact quite amazing.

SNC charges around £150 for a Band D property, which, even if it did nothing else than provide and empty bins on a weekly basis, must be good value.

Because we also collect the Council Tax for the County Council, the Police Authority and the Parish Council, we can invest that money until we have to pay it out later to those other authorities. We only keep about 11% that we require for our services, about 1/9 th of the total we collect.

As most people pay the tax monthly, we have several millions to invest short term each month and we can keep the interest we earn, which helps to keep our council tax down to the figure I mentioned earlier.

Earlier this year we were receiving around 5-6% on this money but, with the drop in interest rates, this is now below 2%. This is a drop of many hundreds of thousands of pounds of interest in the full year. In addition, with house sales stagnating, the local authority search fees have virtually dried up and also planning applications are well down with the resultant drop in fee income.

All these factors are due to the current economic situation. We are not allowed to put up our council tax by more than 5% so we are between a rock and a hard place. It should be remembered that 5% on £150 is about 15 pence per week increase! So you can see that some quite draconian measures will be required to produce a balanced budget this year.

**Martin Wilson**

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### **Coffee Morning**

**Thursday 12 February  
at 67 Stoke Road  
(courtesy of Bron Kenny)  
10.30am to 12 noon**

Bring and Buy, Raffle, Friends and Conversation

All proceeds in aid of Church Funds  
**Everbody welcome**

## Ashton Relief-in-need Charity Fields

The Ashton Poor's Land Charities relate to two fields in the parish of Ashton. The two fields of 12 Pole and 6 Pole are located about half a mile from the village on the Hartwell road. They are on the north side of the road adjacent to the turning with Park Lane. The fields are narrow and are separated by a third of similar size which is not owned by the Ashton Charity.

The fields were formally used as allotments by villagers. When their use as allotments declined, the fields were rented out. The income derived from the rents is distributed to Ashton's pensioners at Christmas.

At one time pensioners used to receive gifts of firewood. Then coal replaced wood and, because of the different types of house heating, from 1991 it was decided to distribute the money directly to the pensioners.

### **12 Poles (Poor's Land) Charity**

A report by the Charity Commissioners dating from the early part of the last century states that the 12 poles, or Poor's land, charity began when an allotment was allocated to the Minister, Churchwardens and Overseers on the inclosure of open fields in the parish in 1817.

Before the inclosure, the rent of the Poor's land had been distributed among the poor, but subsequently it seems that it was used instead to buy coal for distribution. The Central Register entry for the charity shows "Fuel for the benefit of the poor of the Parish of Ashton" as the Charity's object.

### **6 Poles Charity**

The 6 poles charity is comprised in the Salcey Forest Inclosure Award of 1825. The allocation of the allotments was to the Rector, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor "for the use of the Poor of the said Parish of Ashton as compensation for their right to sere and broken wood".

For many years the charities were legally represented as two individual concerns. The Charity Commission granted that the two charities may be combined. From November 1996 the Charity has been known as

**Ashton Relief-in-need Charity Fields**