

# **ASHTON**

## *Village News*

**Issue 39**  
**June 1998**

**Next Issue**  
**August 1998**

**Don't Forget**

**ASHTON VILLAGE FETE**  
**18 JULY**  
**AT THE RUGBY CLUB**

**Wine and Cheese Party**

Another successful party was held on 21 May at Mike and Antje's home. Although numbers were down by 30% compared with last year, those that attended contributed over £500 towards the upkeep of the church. Many thanks to all those who attended.

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**SPONSORED ANONYMOUSLY**

**Ashton School**  
**worried about future of school, its pupils and village community**  
**due to Northamptonshire Schools Review**

A Report by Ashton C.E. Primary School Parent Governors  
Anne Plummer  
(862397)

Ed. Willetts  
(863421)

Northamptonshire County Council are presently informing parents in their leaflet "The Future of Schools in Northampton" about the problems facing schools in the county. Some schools within the town area have spare places. All the schools in the surrounding area however are full.

Plans already exist to build 16,000 new homes in and around the town and this is obviously going to put even more pressure on existing schools.

At present the County Council is carrying out a review of schools by consulting with parents, governors, local communities and the borough and district councils. To solve the problems the following options have been put forward for consideration by a special School Organisation Committee

**Option I - No change**

**Option 2 - Changes - the issues could be dealt with by one or more of the following :-**

- \* Build a new 11-18 school south of Northampton
- \* Extend Moulton School
- \* Change the Roade School catchment area
- \* Close smaller Northampton upper and middle schools
- \* Change to a two-tier system south of River Nene
- \* Change to a two-tier system in the Eastern District
- \* Change from a three-tier to a two-tier system for all of Northampton Borough

At a consultation meeting for school governors Education officials indicated that building a new 11-18 school is not really a viable option as the cost would be about £10 million and the government are unlikely to provide funds for a new school, when surplus places exist in established Borough schools.

**Of grave concern to the governors and parents of Ashton**  
**School is the option -**  
**change the Roade School catchment area.**

Whilst we acknowledge that the consultation process is in its early stages, our concern flows from suggestions raised at consultations already held that, **in order to relieve pressure on**

**Road School the Schools Organisation committee will be asked to consider the removal of children from the villages of Ashton, Stoke Bruerne and Hartwell from the Road School catchment area.**

These villages are geographically and socially linked very closely with Road and its secondary school which is just over a mile from the village of Ashton. If removed from the catchment area the children would be bussed to Kingsbrook School in Deanshanger, a village over 10 miles away with no community links to this area.

This proposal has important consequences not only for the education of our children, but also for their social development and sense of community.

We feel that if this proposal went ahead the viability of Ashton School would be threatened. If parents have to send their children out of their community to a school over 10 miles away are people with children going to move into Ashton village? If our roll falls too low we will no longer be a viable school. This could have an adverse effect not just on the school but on the village as a whole as the school is one of the main centres of village social and community life.

### **What Can You Do?**

**There is a public meeting at Road School on Tuesday 16th June  
1998 at 7pm.**

It really is important that as many people as possible attend the meeting and ask the specific question;

**“WHAT EXACTLY IS MEANT BY THE OPTION -  
CHANGE THE ROAD SCHOOL  
CATCHMENT AREA?”**

There are a relatively small number of people in the three villages compared to some parts of Northampton who may appear to have a louder voice and greater political influence. We must make ourselves heard now before any decisions are taken and it becomes too late. The County Council may be tempted to recommend what could seem to them in the short term to be the quickest, cheapest and easiest solution, that of transporting our children out of their communities, rather than tackling the more serious and expensive issue of discontent with the three-tier system of education in Northampton.

**And now for the good news from Ashton School.....**

We must thank all those villagers who donated so generously to our 'Book Fund'. Our library area is now complete and our MP Tony Clark will be performing the opening ceremony on Friday 26th June at 7 pm. We are pleased to invite you to join us for a glass of wine and to view our new books and library. However, as you know, space is at a premium so we must limit the invitation to adults only.

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You'll be taking good advice".*

## Services at St. Michael's Parish Church

Sunday June 7th	Holy Communion	8.15 am
Sunday June 14th	Holy Communion	8.15 am
Sunday June 28th	Evensong	6.00 pm

## Christian Aid Week

The recent collection in Ashton raised £154.83p. Thank you for your generosity.

### Garden Maintenance

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