

Services at St. Michael's Parish Church

Sunday July 12th	Holy Communion	8.15 am
Sunday July 19th	Family Service and Holy Communion	11.15 am
Sunday July 26th	Evensong	6.00 pm

Do You Care?

One of the aims of the Northamptonshire Carers Forum is to "pass on information to as many Carers as possible" and this we do through our Database project, Support groups, word of mouth and Forum meetings.

We recognise that we are not in touch with all the 68,000 unpaid Carers in our county so we have compiled what we consider to be a useful list of contacts in both statutory and voluntary sectors.

If you are a Carer and would like a copy of our "Signpost to Service for Carers" leaflet free of charge, then please give me a ring on 01604 624088 and a copy will be sent on its way to you.

Jenny Osborne

Liaison worker to Northamptonshire Carers Forum.

KEEP FIT AT ROADE SCHOOL

The pool is open on various occasions for open public and family swimming and a number of aerobic type sessions are organised during the evening. In the future the hope is to build a fitness gym which will be open to the public and contain the most up-to-date fitness machinery. If you are interested in looking after yourself then you will find all the activities you need at Roade School. Further details - **01604 862125**

Garden Maintenance

Call

Gilbert or Robert Wilson

01908 542287 & 01604 864899

GARDENS TIDIED

Trees pruned, Fences repaired

Bernard Day Tel. 862383

FULL DRY CLEANING SERVICE

available from

THE OLD CROWN

MONDAY to FRIDAY

12.00 to 3.00

5.30 to 11.00

SATURDAY 12.00 to 3.00

ASHTON *Village News*

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ASHTON FETE A Village Affair to be held at the RUGBY CLUB SATURDAY 18 JULY - 2 pm

WHITE ELEPHANT
BOTTLES
PLANTS (IN AND OUTDOOR)
BOOKS
CAKES
RAFFLE
TOYS
TOMBOLA

This will also be a good opportunity to purchase your balloon for the long-distance balloon race if you haven't already done so.

There are many new stalls and sideshows this year, so make sure you don't miss out on the fun!

DOG and CHILD AGILITY (bring your dog and child)
RAM RACING
BALLOON RACE
PONY RIDES

ICE CREAMS and SWEETS
TEAS

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!!!

The Future of Northamptonshire Schools

A report on the recent meeting by Lisa Bridewell

A meeting was held on Tuesday 16 June to discuss the future of Northamptonshire schools including the Roade catchment area. The people of Ashton, Hartwell and Stoke Bruerne marched to the meeting to protest about option 4, which is to change the catchment area of Roade comprehensive school and send Ashton, Hartwell and Stoke Bruerne primary schools to Deanshanger school, a round trip of 20 miles.

The meeting started at 7:00pm and the chairwoman was Olwen Loud. The meeting was designed to allow the public to pass their views to a new committee that has been set up called "School Organisation Committee". 500+ people attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting it was emphasised by the Chairwoman that action would not commence until year 2000 and that no decision had been taken as there is no easy solution.

The first major point raised was "Why reviews?". It was said they were reviewing the situation because:

1. There are under-used schools in Northamptonshire.
2. More pupils are now going to Roade comprehensive school.
3. Northampton is growing larger.
4. Better education standards.
5. Investment in secondary schools.

The problem seems to lie in the growth of Northamptonshire. 60000 new homes are currently being built and those children moving to the area need schooling. Wootton, Collingtree and people near Junction 15 all expect to come to Roade school but there is a short fall of approximately 50 places. A new school cannot be built because of the excess 4000 places at schools in the Eastern district and a lack of money.

The meeting was very heated and tense. There were many objections raised. Many people were concerned about transport to and from Deanshanger school. Even if transport was provided there is still the possibility of missed buses and the possibility of the bus breaking down in which case a parent would have to travel a 20 mile round trip to take their child to school. Another concern was the fact that families would have to spilt apart with one child at Roade and one child at Deanshanger.

People were angry and frustrated that outside communities could go to Roade school but locals with strong community links could not go to their local school. Another major factor raised was the three tier system. A representative from the local education department said, "Three tier systems are as good as the two tier system". So why we ask ourselves are Hunsbury and Wootton not sending their children to the three tier system.

Parents should have a choice to which school they let their children attend but at the meeting we were clearly told that there would be no parental preference. Shouldn't a parent have the right to decide what school their children attend? Most of the problems are down to money. There is not enough money to build another secondary school or to change the three tier system so, as an alternative, local villagers are thrown out of their local school. We are told there would be more meetings to discuss the future of Northamptonshire schools in the Autumn Term.

Ashton CE Primary School

Ashton CE Primary School has been fortunate to benefit financially from a local charitable trust. The grant of up to £40,000 is to improve the accommodation and is to be supplemented by the Local Education Authority by another £10,000. The school now has to raise an additional £10,000 in order to benefit from the full grant.

"We are very excited with the news of this grant in order to improve the outdated buildings. Fundraising will be a priority to gain the additional £10,000 needed to complete our project".

The governors of Ashton School feel that this is a big vote of confidence in Ashton School and it's future.

The improved accommodation will mean that the community will be able to benefit from the additional facilities as well as the school.

Kathleen Lever, Anne and John wish to thank the friends in Ashton for the flowers, cards and letters received in their sad bereavement and to the many friends who attended the church service. £608 has been kindly donated for the Church Fabric Fund in remembrance of Reg. Many thanks to you all.

A date for your diary

Coffee Evening 2 Cooks Close, Ashton in aid of Church Funds

Thursday 13 August at 7.30pm

50p

Bring and Buy Stall

Raffle

Village Watch

The following incidents have been reported recently. On the evening of 29 June in St Michael's Court a Volvo was entered, the ignition attacked, the glove compartment broken into and items stolen. On the same evening a break in was attempted on a Ford Escort in Hartwell Road. Any information on these incidents should be reported to the local Village Watch representative or to the local Police.

Stoke Road, Little Ashton and parts of Hartwell Road do not have Street Representatives for the Village Watch scheme. For more details contact the Village Coordinator, Martin Wilson, on 864254