

ASHTON

Village News

Issue 44
March 1999

Next Issue
May 1999

Parish Council Elections 6 May 1999

There are five "seats" on the Parish Council. Nomination papers will be available from the Clerk of the Council, Mrs Webb, from 26 March. Mrs Webb can be contacted on 862313. The papers must be received by the Returning Officer at SNC by 8 April 1999. The address is South Northants Council, Springfields, Towcester, Northants, NN12 6AE.

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Webb is retiring from the position of Clerk in May after 30 years of sterling service. We are grateful to Nita for all the years of hard work. Anyone interested in this part time position should apply to Bernard Day on 862383 for details.

All the 100 or so people who attended the **Barn Dance** on 26 February had a wonderful evening. The floor was packed for every single dance and there was much hilarity not only in sorting out left from right, but also in "boy" from "girl". In some cases dancers seemed to change gender several times in the course of one dance! The Ploughman's Supper was a welcome break and chance for a breather half way through the evening before the raffle was drawn and dancing got underway again.

Thanks to everybody who helped to prepare the food or the hall for the evening and those who helped to clear up afterwards. Especial thanks go to the Rugby Club who kindly allowed us to use the premises free of charge and also to "Corybantics" who played brilliantly and made a grand job of "calling" all the dances, also free of charge.

A profit of £440 was shared between the School and the Church and, although that is very much appreciated, what was far more important was that people from the village were able to meet together and enjoy a truly sociable occasion.

SPONSORED ANONYMOUSLY

Parish Council News

Ashton Floods

Following the deluge of Easter 98 and problems associated, the Parish Council has contacted SNC, NCC and the Environment Agency. None of these bodies are prepared to do very much although one resident, seriously affected, managed to persuade them to check the sewer and a "ghetto blaster" was discovered causing a partial blockage.

You may or may not accept stories of Global Warming, but climate change is a reality. We are experiencing more erratic weather patterns with greater extremities. Therefore it is likely that excessive rainfall which may cause flooding will occur more often in future.

The Environment Agency produce a leaflet called "Living on the Edge" which explains the rights and responsibilities of owners and occupiers of land adjoining watercourses. The responsibilities where a watercourse flows through your land are as follows :-

It is your responsibility to maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse (including trees and shrubs on the bank).

It is your responsibility to clear any debris natural or otherwise, even if it did not originate from your land.

Please keep your piece clear for the benefit of the community.

Elections

1999 is Election Year.

As mentioned on page 1, Parish Council Elections are on 6 May. District Council Elections are also on 6 May. European Parliament Elections on 10 June.

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be on 9 March at The Old Crown.

Bernard Day

Chairman, Ashton Parish Council

Garden Maintenance
Call
Gilbert or Robert Wilson
01908 542287 & 01604 864899

A date for your diary

Sunday 13 June
a garden walk around Ashton

more details later

The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels

March 7	Holy Communion	8.15am
March 14	Mothering Sunday Family Service	11.00am
March 21	Passion Sunday Holy Communion	8.15am
March 28	Palm Sunday Evensong with Blessing and Distribution of Palms	6.00pm
April 2	Good Friday "An Hour by the Cross" Devotional Service (Mrs Pat Finnegan - Reader, Hartwell)	2.00pm
April 4	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	8.15am
April 11	Holy Communion	8.15am
April 18	Family Service	11.00am
April 25	A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for our Departed Loved Ones	3.30pm

(A separate invitation with more details is included with this Newsletter)

Advance Notice:

May 6	BENEFICE SERVICE for Ashton, Roade and Hartwell Holy Communion with hymns conducted by the Revd Bob Cave	10.00am
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ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S

David Bellamy's Christmas Trees

Taxus baccata, the churchyard Yew, has many links with Christmas, perhaps the most obvious being that it stands beside so many of our parish churches. Many of these churchyard Yews are venerable specimens and research over the past 15 years has shown that a number of them predate not only the church but Christianity itself.

So, as we approach the celebration of 2000 years since the Birth of Christ, the Conservation Foundation has taken cuttings from yew trees that we believe to be at least 2000 years old and they are on offer to all parishes who would like to celebrate the Bi-millennium of their faith by planting one in their churchyard or some other appropriate place.

Already 5000 parishes have reserved their tree. Each parish can have one free, but "limited edition" trees will be for sale to those who would like to celebrate the Millennium in private gardens, farms or private woodlands. The income raised will enable the Conservation Foundation to continue protecting and recording the country's ancient Yews and will also set up a fund to help churches unable to afford the proper care these ancient trees deserve, so safeguarding their unique place in history - a living link across 2000 years.

If you would like to know more about **Yews for the Millennium** contact:
Libby Symon, The Conservation Foundation, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
Tel 0171 591 311 Fax 0171 591 3110 Email: conservef@gn.apc.org

Hurricane Appeal

Despite heavy rain all day the evening turned out fine for the carol singers. Several children and some adults sung themselves hoarse, but had an enjoyable evening. Time only allowed them to "entertain" Stoke Road and part of Hartwell Road, but thanks to your generosity they were able to send £91.25p to the Central America Hurricane Appeal.

Church News

from Revd H W Webb

The weekly services are always advertised on the notice board fastened to the Lych Gate. We are very grateful to Mr Sydney Watson who kindly made our new notice board - bigger, better and hopefully vandalproof.

Within the church we have much improved lighting at the East End, which before was quite dark. This we owe to the generous donations given in memory of the late Mr Lever and the wish of Mrs Lever that this money should be used in this way.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of over £400 given in memory of the late Mr Frank Bird. The family have kindly said that this can be added to the Fabric Fund. This is most welcome as it is apparent that some repair work will soon be needed to be done.

Bell Ringers! The Ashton "band" is growing apace in numbers and skill. Now Marian and Janet can expect, in time for the Millenium ring, to be joined by Shirley, Heidi and Helen. Keep at it, ladies!

Coffee Morning

The last coffee morning was a great success in spite of the snowy weather. The nurse from Roade Medical Centre gave a brief talk on the Doppler machine that proceeds from the coffee morning were helping to buy. Just over £70 was raised and was shared equally between the Church and the Medical Centre.

The next coffee morning will be on Tuesday 9 March from 1000 until 1130 at The Old Crown. Come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.