

ASHTON

Village News

Issue 52
April 2000

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Ashton

Parish Council AGM

Ashton School

Monday 8th May 7.45pm

Mrs Shakeshaft

With the passing of Mrs Dorothy Shakeshaft at the great age of 94 years, we have said a final farewell in this life to a great lady - and a great portion of the history not only of Ashton where she lived from her marriage, but also of Collingtree where she was born and always kept in fond remembrance. Amongst many memories of her years at "The Old Crown" and her skill and business in knitting right up to the end, we also recall her devotion to the Faith and her Church, and the sharpness of her mental abilities to the day of her death. It will be a strange feeling to have her no more in the village. A goodly number came to pay their last respects at her funeral and by her own wish her great friend Doctor Sutton spoke the words of tribute.

Ashton Coffee Mornings

The Coffee Mornings at the Old Crown have now finished for the summer and our thanks go to Hazel and Dennis for allowing us to use the pub as a meeting place. Since Christmas, we have raised £86 for the Towcester and District Drivers. This is an organisation which helps with transport for medically related journeys. We have also raised £21 for the Village Millennium fund, an equal amount has been raised for the Church. Everyone enjoys these Coffee mornings as a good place to meet up and chat, so we look forward to seeing some new faces when they start again, hopefully in October.

If anyone has any ideas for a worthwhile local cause or charity please let me know.

Marion Wilson 864 254

Ashton Fete Meeting

There is a meeting at the Pub on 5th June at 8.00pm for all those involved in organising the Village Fete (Village Group). If there are any others who would like to help out, you are also more than welcome.

Ashton Millenium Update

The three projects to mark the Millennium in Ashton, which we are still working on are:-

- The Village Cross
- The Pocket Park
- The Photographic Record

The current situation on each of these is:-

The Village Cross:

We have some design proposals and cost estimates to build and install a Village Cross. The materials would be wood (the Cross itself) and stone (the base). We hope to incorporate a seat or seats as part of the base. The designs are attractive and ambitious and the costs consequently quite high. We have been promised a cash contribution from the SNC but at present there is a significant shortfall.

The Pocket Park:

After encouragement, followed by disappointment, we have now received a really positive response from Railtrack. There are still some obstacles to overcome but, if we eventually get the green light from Railtrack, funding appears to be less of a problem as NCC is very supportive of this project. The proposed site for the Pocket Park is at the foot of the railway embankment behind the old village hut field

The Photographic Record:

Photographs have been regularly taken of many aspects of village life since the start of the year 2000. Jeremy Roychoudhury has born the brunt of the effort in taking most of the photographs covering events in the village so far.

We want as many people of Ashton to take their own photographs of their life and memories of this year in Ashton. Whenever you are out and about remember to take your camera with you and snap away. We hope that many of you will allow your pictures and memories to become part of the Village Photographic Record. We don't expect expert results as we want as many of the village to contribute pictures as possible. We hope to hold a village photographic competition at the end of the year from the submitted entries. The subjects can be anything you like, as long as there is a link with Ashton in the year 2000 in some way.

During the summer we hope to carry out a Photographic census of the village by photographing ALL the people currently living in the village. We will be providing more information on this project shortly and we hope you will all support us in this effort.

A note on Cash:

The Millennium Group are immensely indebted to the relatively small band of people who have raised cash to fund the Millennium activities and projects.

Amongst the activities have been the dances at the Rugby Club arranged by Marion Wilson, the Coffee Mornings at the Old Crown run by Pat Nevison and the sale of the Ashton Calendars by Dave Farrand. Carole Broadhurst and her troupe of helpers gave Ashton a wonderful start to the Millennium.

Whilst we still need more money, our sincere thanks to these villagers and to the others who have contributed.

Ashton Parish Council Meeting - Monday 13th March 2000

Neighbourhood Watch - Martin Wilson has resigned as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Ashton. David Farrand has agreed to take on this position. PC Osbourne gave a presentation to the Parish Council (detailed in this newsletter).

Traffic Calming - Problem spots within Ashton (speeding motorists) were discussed. PC Osbourne will investigate the possibility of setting up a speed camera.

Footpaths - The problems regarding the footpath (opposite the school) were discussed and a request for levelling considered. In the past the Parish Council's request to the NCC had been turned down due to lack of funds.

Stonefield Holding - A letter from the NCC, concerning the non-compliance of the enforcement notice to remove waste from the site, was read out. The NCC is looking into the ownership of the land and a decision would be taken once this had been confirmed.

- Bernard Day had attended and spoken on behalf of the Parish Council at the recent SNC planning committee, concerning the planning application for the siting of the mobile home. The application was refused.
- Discussion took place regarding a letter that Mr Jones had written to various residents of the village.
- The Parish Council learnt that the SNC together with the NCC is taking legal action against Mr Jones.

Planning - There was discussion regarding the planning application for the erection of a storage building at Cottage Farm Buildings, Hartwell Road, Ashton (Roade Parish).

Any Other Business

Skips - Rubbish Skips will be placed at Vale Farm and Road Hill for the 6th and 7th May 2000

Stiles - The Clerk has contacted the NCC Rights of Way Officer concerning the reported broken stiles.

St Michaels Court - The Highways Adoption Manager is awaiting drawing from the developers, before adopting the road. Once this has been done, the Parish Council will be informed.

Street Lamps - There was discussion regarding two problem lamps.; one sited on the Green in Hartwell road; the second at the 'Gate House' Stoke road.

Willow Tree, Stoke Road - It has been rumoured that the tree is to be cut down. The Clerk is to get more information from the NCC Insurance Officer.

Resignation of Clerk - Janet Roychoudhury has resigned as Clerk to the Parish Council, giving three months notice.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the AGM and will be held at Village School on Monday 18th 2000 at 7.45pm.

Ashton Fete - Car Boot Sale

As we are hoping to have another bumper Car Boot Sale at the Fete this year, we are desperate for more MEN to help with stewarding cars and parking control on the day. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare during the weekends leading up to the Fete, we need help with advertising. It is not arduous, just putting out flyers at other car boot sales is all it needs to be, but any help offered would be much appreciated.

Marion Wilson 864 254 or Dave Farrand 863 225

Mothering Sunday & Millennium Yew Tree

The Mothering Sunday Service was well attended and enjoyed by both School Children and Parents. The Millennium Yew Tree, a tiny sprig grown from stock dating back 4000 years was planted in the Church yard by representatives of the older village community and school children and blessed by the Rector. Mrs Lever has resigned from the Parochial Church Council due to ill health, having served for over fifty years.

Ashton Neighbourhood Watch

PC Osborne gave a presentation to the Parish Council outlining details of the new Daventry Web site, with daily updated information on crimes in the western area of Northamptonshire. The website, with regular telephone and email communication between the Police and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators should improve the effectiveness of the scheme. For the year since April 1999 there have been only 12 reported crimes in Ashton.

PC Osborne explained that police boundaries are now the same as council boundaries. He covers 13 villages in 10 parishes. He works out of Towcester Police Station and Ashton is part of the Deanshanger beat and manpower is spread thinly. PC Osborne can be contacted on **01327 303208** (Direct Office Number) or **01604 700700** for the Western Area Control.

Discussion then focussed on recent vandalism in Ashton which has had been reported to members of the Parish Council but not to the Police. Walls and fence panels are being damaged. Stones have been thrown at windows and vehicles. Greenhouse glass has been smashed. Comments were also made about children being seen on the train embankment and about their general behaviour in and around the village towards property and residents. PC Osborne was given the names of particular individuals and he would be making home visits.

PC Osborne agreed to write a letter to all residents of Ashton (see enclosed with this newsletter) concerning the general behaviour of children and also pointing out that residents should be encouraged to report incidents to the Police. They can also be reported to the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

As seen in the Parish Council Notes, Martin Wilson has resigned as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Ashton. I have agreed to take on this position as of 13th March.

Since the Ashton Neighbourhood Watch was originally formed in 1993, enthusiasm for the scheme has dwindled gradually over the years, to the point where only two members in the village were active. I have been asked to rebuild the Ashton Neighbourhood Watch and to put in place a network of Street Co-ordinators to cover the village. This process is underway and an Ashton Neighbourhood Watch newsletter will be published to update the village on its progress.

If any members of the village would volunteer to help re-build the Ashton Neighbourhood Watch, please contact me.

David Farrand 863 225

District Council News

No doubt many people will have read in the press of the proposed revision of the County Structure Plan which broadly speaking set out where houses and commercial and industrial developments can be sited.

The final outcome of this revision will not be published until later this year, but it is certain our area in the south of the county will come under the threat of development.

At this time it seems likely that Roade, Milton Malsor and around the A43 are likely to be affected, with Ashton perhaps outside the area most likely to be involved. I will keep you informed as details of the Structure plan and enquiry are announced.

Martin Wilson