

Compost

Those people who expressed an interest in receiving free compost should have been contacted by Stephanie Fowler, Parish Council Clerk. The compost will be available from Friday 21 September.

Ashton Roots Weekend

The Ashton Roots weekend takes place from 26 to 28 April 2002. Visitors with an interest in Ashton and the surrounding villages will arrive from all over the world to trace their family and talk about local history. We are looking for volunteers to help organise the weekend and to chat with our visitors about Ashton past and present. Please contact David and Delia Farrand on 863225.

Ashton Village Group

The Ashton Village Group will meet on Monday 1 October from 8.00pm at the Old Crown to talk about future fund raising events. If you are interested in contributing to the Group, please come along and join in.

Congratulations to Yvonne and Russell Hardman on the safe arrival of Zoe, a lovely sister for Dominic.

Fete/Balloon Race

The winner of the balloon race is Ross Chambers. The balloon travelled 95 miles and was returned from Old Costessy near Norwich.

The Fete and Car Boot Sale raised over £2000 which was shared between the Church and the School. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to make it such a success.

Useful Contacts

Parish Council Chairman - Bernard Day 862383 Community Policeman - PC Goddard 01327 303209
Parish Council Clerk - Stephanie Fowler 862904 Towcester Police Station Western Area 01327 303245
Footpath Warden - Peter Coulson 864214 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator - David Farrand 863225
Ashton District Councillor - Martin Wilson 864254 Village Internet Site - www.ashtonvillage.co.uk

Letters or Articles for A.V.N. to David & Delia Farrand, 20 Hartwell Road Telephone 863225
Whilst every care is taken regarding the issue of this newsletter, the Editors accept no liability for the accuracy of the contributions

ASHTON *Village News*

Issue 59
September 2001

Next Issue
November 2001

Christmas Fayre

A village **Christmas Fayre** will be held at **Vale Farmhouse**, Stoke Road, Ashton on **Friday 16 and Saturday 17 November** from **10.00am** until **4.00pm**.

There will be many **interesting stalls** selling antiques, silver, gifts, ladies hats and accessories, childrens footwear, cards, etc. **Refreshments** will be served all day.

This is a wonderful opportunity to buy some interesting presents to give at Christmas and, maybe, a little something for yourself. All proceeds will go to Ashton Church.

Skips

Two refuse skips will be available in Ashton this weekend (Saturday 22 and Sunday 23). The first will be located on Stoke Road Green and the second in Little Ashton

Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School for September will be on 23rd at 10.00am. We will be talking about Harvest and preparing for the Harvest Festival on 30th at 3.00pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along to both these services which will be followed by tea or coffee and a chance for a chat.

Ashton Church

Many of you will remember the Millennium Gathering in the Church on 1 January 2000. Following the success of that very popular occasion and various comments made concerning it, the PCC (Parochial Church Council) are considering various ways of making the Church more available for events in the village community. This may involve replacing some pews with movable seating, piping in water and providing toilet and kitchen facilities.

Historically, Churches were used for a variety of purposes ranging from markets, meetings and obviously prayer. It will be a big challenge to undertake such a change while keeping the peace and character of the Church intact, so any comments and suggestions that you make will be welcome.

Please contact Bernard 862383, Lindsay 862277 or Marion 864254 with your views. We would like the Church to be an integrated part of the village.

News from Ashton CE Primary School

As the new teacher at Ashton Primary School I am glad to have this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Annette Ray and before joining the staff at Ashton School I taught in a large junior school in Eastern Northamptonshire. Before this I worked at Overstone County Primary School, which is a small village school. I am looking forward to becoming part of the village community and joining in as much as possible with village events.

I hope through this newsletter to keep members of the community up to date with some of the activities taking place in the school. The reports will be written by the children and cover some of the exciting things we do during the school year.

May I say how much I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next few months.

The Giant Jump

On Friday 7 September 2001 Ashton CE Primary School took part in a GIANT science experiment, the giant jump. Over 4000 schools took part in the giant jump at exactly 11 o'clock in the morning. The experiment was to see if all the school children could make the earth tremor.

The school children made 2 tremor detectors (out of some string, a spring, and weight and a pen) to see if the school succeeded. The infant class also made some instruments to record the tremor. In the end the instruments did record a little tremor. Altogether it was enjoyed by everyone!

By Paul, Jack and Daniel A.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings will begin again in October. This year we will have a new venue in The Barn at Vale Farmhouse, Stoke Road by kind permission of Mrs Zanotto. Funds will again be shared between the Church and a local charity so why not come along for a sociable morning? £1 will buy you coffee and biscuits, but there will also be a raffle and bring & buy stall. There will be some home-made cakes and produce too.

The dates are Wednesday 10 October
 Wednesday 14 November
 Wednesday 12 December from 10.00am to 11.30am.

If anyone is in need of transport, please ring Marion on 864254.

Harvest Festival

Anyone who would like to come along to help decorate the Church for Harvest will be made very welcome. We shall meet from 9.30am to 11.00am on Saturday 29 September. Come on your own or bring friends, flowers, greenery, fruit or vegetables. All will be made welcome.

St Michael and All Angels Church

23 September	10.00am	Family Sunday School
	6.00pm	Evensong
30 September	3.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service

Most people in the Benefice know by now that the Rector retires early next year and he and Mrs Webb will be moving to their new home in Sussex near Chichester. He can now officially announce that his last "working Sunday" before moving will be 20 January 2002.

Plans are moving very slowly, because of the need to get proper permission "from on high", to repair the lychgate and upgrade the drainage system. The lychgate was erected for Queen Victoria's Jubilee so it would be very suitable to have it repaired in time for the present Queen's Jubilee next year. We also hope that soon work will be done to make good the nave roof (which has leaked somewhat at times through the ridge tiles) and maybe improve and repair the guttering.

Village Sign Garden

We are now preparing the design of a garden which will be constructed round the Village Sign. A small design team has been formed and we hope to have completed the work by the end of November. Anyone wishing to make contact with the team should phone Jan Shepherd on 864414.