

Homeless in the spotlight

On 24th January I kept my word to my sponsors and slept out in St Giles Churchyard, joining with 38 more people. The weather was a bit cold but I'm glad I didn't have to sleep out the following Friday!!!

I would like to give a big thank you for all who supported me in this venture. My sponsors were spread far and wide. What I did was just a gesture to bring the need of the homeless into the spotlight. No way could I put myself into the place of the people who sleep out every night. I knew I was coming home to all my creature comforts, but it did give me a few hours to try and think what it must be like for them.

The final amount of money was £515.49p. Again a big thank you for such generosity.

Joyce Kingsbury

Church Services - Mothering Sunday

Sunday 30th, Mothering Sunday

- ◆ 'All age service' at 3.00pm ASHTON
- ◆ 'All age Communion' at 9.15am HARTWELL
- ◆ 'All age Communion' at 10.30am ROADE

Neighbourhood Watch

A House Door Key was found recently. If you have lost a key, please contact Dave Farrand 863225 with a description of the key fob to identify the owner

IF IT MAKES YOU LOOK TWICE - REPORT IT !!!

For Emergencies call 999

To report a crime call Western area 01327 300300
Community Beat Officer, Glynn Goddard 01327 303215
Ashton Neighbourhood Watch, David Farrand 863225

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*

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As promised, the next

Network Rail MEETING

at

Ashton School

Monday 7th April at 6.30pm

As Network Rail promised, we will be told the results of their investigations into the problems we have on Roade Hill.

Do please support us by attending the meeting

Ashton Newspapers

As most of you know, Ashton no longer has a village Newspaper delivery round. After many years of regular deliveries around Ashton, we have not been able to find anyone who is willing to continue a village delivery service.

We would like to thank Ann Griffin, Jonathan and Jeremy Roychoudhury for their help and support during last year in making newspaper delivery possible.

If there is anyone who would like to take on this project, call **Dave Farrand 863225**

Ashton Gardens Walk - Sunday July 6th

We are looking for Ashton villagers who would be willing to open their garden for the day to visitors for our biennial Ashton Gardens Walk. We have had two successful openings but would like to have some new gardens in addition to our 'regulars'.

There will also be a plant stall, so while you are tidying up the garden this spring, please remember us for cutting, small plants, etc. Any donations of plant material will be most welcome. The Open day is a major social event in the village. If you could spare a few hours to help out, you would be most welcome.

If you can help in any way, please contact **Marion Wilson 864254**

Garage / Barn Storage

Ashton Parish Council is looking for storage facilities in the village. This would be for the Road signs and other items used by many groups in the village for community fund raising events during the year.

If you have some space available, please contact **Bernard Day 862383**

Ashton Charity Fields

After many years of help and support Kath Lever is standing down from the Ashton Charity Fields committee.

We would like to thank Kath for all her help with the village charity.

Ashton Parish Council - Election Year

If you have an interest in helping the Ashton community, why not become a Parish Councillor.

Elections will be taking place this year on 1 May. If you wish to be nominated as a Parish Councillor please contact:-

Carol Blackman (Electoral Services Officer) 01327 322121
for a Nomination Paper Pack for the election.

Please note that your application MUST be in by noon on Tuesday 1 April 2003

Ashton Village Events for 2003 - for your diary

Some events in 2003, so make a note in your diary.

- **Village Garden Walks Day - Sunday 6th July** - We have this popular event every other year. Not to be missed.
- **Mid Summer Celebration. - 21st June** - . This event is still in its early planning stages. We will update you as more information becomes available
- **Giant Car Boot Sales - 10th May and 7th June and 2 August** - . Due to popular demand we will be having not two, but three Giant Car Boot events. Many of the visitors to our previous car boot days have said how enjoyable they were and could we have more! We intend they will be bigger and better than ever.

For more information contact **Marion Wilson 864254**

Ashton CE Primary School

It's been an exciting start to the New Year at Ashton School. On January 15th 2003 the school held an open day for prospective parents to come and take a look at our lovely village school. On the same evening the Governors hosted a drinks party to celebrate the re-launch of the school's prospectus and the setting up of the web site at www.ashtonprimary.org. In attendance on the evening was the Mayor of Northampton Cllr Mike Boss and from South Northants council was the Chair Cllr Janet Eliot. Cllr Boss gave a welcoming speech where he praised the presentation of the new prospectus and spoke about the importance of keeping up to date with technology with the web site. Ashton school children presented the guests with some specially prepared Ashton School Shortbread. The junior children also took part in a singing event in Northampton last term and the following is feature from a budding young reporter

The Big Sing

Our teacher told us that we were going to a big sing at the Royal Theatre in Northampton. We went on a coach that we shared with Stoke Bruerne School. I was looking forward to it. It took about ½ an hour to get there and I sat with Elizabeth. It was quite windy that day so it was good that the coach got to park right outside the theatre.

When we got there I was surprised because there were lots of children around more than I thought. When we sat down we listened to some songs and joined in when we were told to. My best part was when we sang a song called peel banana I really liked that one, it was fun to sing and I keep singing it all the time.

The whole Big Sing lasted about 2 hours. I enjoyed the day and I would like to go again because I like learning new songs and singing very much.

Abbie Campbell Year 4