

St Michael and All Angels

The next Coffee Mornings will be on Thursday 12 February and Thursday 11 March, 10am - 11.30am at the Vale Farmhouse Barn (courtesy of Mr and Mrs Zannotto). £1 for Coffee and Biscuits. There will also be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy. Proceeds to Ashton Church and Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

A Mothering Day service will be held on 21 March at 3.00pm at Ashton Church. The school children will be taking part.

The church organ has been dismantled and is being renovated and refurbished. It is hoped that this work will be completed within 6 weeks and so be in fine tune for the above service. The work was kindly paid for by private donations.

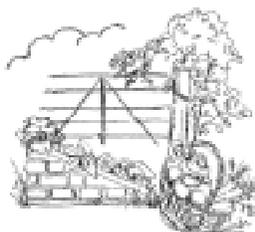
Sunday School is open to all. We start with a short informal act of worship and then have a craft session before finishing with a drink and biscuits. Children may come alone or be accompanied by adults. The next Sunday School dates are 8 February and 7 March.

Some of the gravestones in Ashton churchyard are unstable. If you find a gravestone that is a cause for concern, please contact Revd Mike Burton on 01604 862284.

Ashton's Vale Farmhouse Shop

10.30am to 4.00pm
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday

For more information, telephone 07711 628246



A taste of Italy awaits you at Vale Farm Shop.

We invite you to enjoy a glass of wine and to sample some of the exciting new products that have arrived from Italy this week. We will have a selection of cheeses, salami, pasta and oils. In addition we have lamb, beef, game, eggs, vegetables, etc.

We do hope you can join us.
Buon appetito
Betta and Carole

Useful Contacts

Towcester Police Station Western Area 01327 300300
Parish Council Chairman - Bernard Day 862383 Community Policeman - PC Brown 01327 303215
Parish Council Clerk - Stephanie Fowler 862904 E-mail - Justin.Brown@Northants.PNN.Police.uk
Ashton District Councillor - Martin Wilson 864254 Village Internet Site - www.ashtonvillage.co.uk
Footpath Warden - Peter Coulson 864214 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator - David Farrand 863225

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 78
February 2004

URGENT MEETING NETWORK RAIL ISSUES

16 February 2004
from 7.30pm
at Ashton School

Tony Clarke MP will attend

It is important to have lots of people at the meeting to show Tony Clarke that the village feels that the behaviour of the railway contractors is unacceptable.

Tony Clarke's office will shortly be distributing a questionnaire to find out the current level of interest in the continuing problems.

The MP is getting mixed messages from the village and will use the results of the questionnaire to judge if further action is required on behalf of Ashton.

Valentines Ball/Disco

on Saturday 14 February 2004

7.30 to 12.30

at Mens Own Rugby Club

£3.00 purchased in advance
(no children under 14)

contact Sarah
on 01604 591775 or 07793 366044

Northamptonshire Police

I am writing to ask for your help in tackling a crime that is particularly unpleasant and which, sadly, occurs far too often. **Distraction burglary** is a despicable crime, where someone preys on an elderly or vulnerable person by calling at their home with a seemingly good reason to be admitted, but with the real intention of stealing anything they can find.

Quite apart from the material loss, often the most damaging consequence of distraction burglary is the blow to the victim's confidence and their sense of being safe in their own homes, which can be truly tragic. We would give the following advice :-

Fit a door chain if you do not already have one

Check the identity of anyone who calls at your door - do not take on trust that they are who they say they are.

If you are not expecting the caller, do not let them in. If they have a genuine reason for calling, they will understand and will not be concerned.

There have been nearly 300 distraction burglaries in Northamptonshire this year. Of course we have to keep things in perspective, but by anyone's standard this number is far too high. Please help us to protect vulnerable residents and pass on immediately any information you may have about suspicious activity in your area.

CHEESE and WINE PARTY

on Friday 5 March 2004

from 7.30pm

at The Old Rectory, Ashton

£3.00 includes first drink

Tickets from Mike 862415 or Marion 864254

in aid of Ashton Church funds and the rebuild
of Cynthia Spencer Hospice

ALL welcome

From the Treasurer of Ashton Parochial Church Council :-

I am very please to inform you that Ashton has once again paid in full it's Parish Share. This is the twelfth year in a row that this has been achieved. The Parish Share pays towards the cost of the Rector's stipend so if we do not pay he does not get paid. Our Parish Share this year is £4320.00p, the Church insurance, which I am sure everyone knows is compulsory, is £674.00p, electricity and heating is £230.00p.

The church, being the oldest building in Ashton at circa twelfth century, can develop problems which have to be rectified, plus any other costs that may arise. We have a small band of dedicated workers, who give their time and financial assistance, to keep the church and the church yard in good condition. Even after this, it is necessary to raise further monies to pay our Parish Share, by having throughout the year fund raising events to enable us to keep the church running for present and future generations.

If you or anyone you know is willing to participate in either church maintenace, helping with our various functions or donating a financial gift (which through the Gift Aid sheme if you are a tax payer nets us a further 22 pence in the pound), please help us to maintain our proud record.