

From your District Councillor

Since I have been your district councillor the ward I represent has covered the villages of Ashton, Alderton, Grafton Regis and Yardley Gobion. It was one of the most diverse wards in the whole district.

Every so often the boundary commission examines the wards and try to equate the number of electors in each ward as far as possible. The result of this is that my ward called Grafton ward will no longer exist as from the next election scheduled for May 3. Ashton will join Hartwell in the ward known as Salcey which hitherto had just included Hartwell.

I must say that it does make sense as the two villages are much closer together than say Ashton and Yardley Gobion are. So on election day Ashton and Hartwell will be together for the first time.

As the Council Tax demands have been hitting the carpet lately it may be an opportune time to explain a bit about the bills you receive. As I am sure you are all aware council tax is a very emotive issue. Your bills are sent to you by S.N.C. and they include not just the money you pay for the services S.N.C. provides but also the County Council precept, the police precept and the local parish council precept. S.N.C. only keeps about 11% for its own services the rest is paid straight over to the other three authorities. So for next year that is 2007/8 the bill for the services of the Council I represent is £150 per annum for a band D property. This is an increase over last year of £7 per annum or about 13 pence per week. The total bill from all the authorities is 4% higher than last year.

I will try to explain one main reason for our increase. Last April we introduced the concessionary fares for anyone over 60 and for anyone of any age who is registered disabled. Under this scheme travel was permitted free at any time anywhere in the district and free to various towns outside the district boundary. This proved extremely popular, to such an extent that extra buses were put on to cope with the increased demand—which of course was good news. However it did mean that the cost to the council was some £200,000 over budget. If nothing had been done this would have meant another 4% increase on the council tax. So what has happened is in an attempt to bridge the funding gap we have restricted the concession to off peak travel, after 9-30 in the morning.

If anyone has any questions about the tax, fares or indeed anything else, please contact me. Martin Wilson, Roade Hill, Ashton

Useful Contacts

Towcester Police Station Western Area 01327 300300

Parish Council Chairman - Bernard Day 862383

Police Community Support Officer - Tara Cooksammy

Parish Council Clerk - Stephanie Fowler 862904

Direct line 01327 303228 Mobile 07919 043778

Ashton District Councillor - Martin Wilson 864254

E-mail - tara.cooksammy@northants.police.uk

Footpath Warden - Peter Coulson 864214

Village Internet Site - www.ashtonvillage.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch - 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*

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Ashton Parish Council Elections

Elections are due shortly in early May.

For those interested to stand for election for membership of Ashton Parish Council, a completed nomination paper must be handed into South Northants Council offices at Towcester before noon on 4th April.

Nomination papers may be obtained by either contacting:-



(a) South Northants Council offices,
Springfields
Towcester
Northants
NN12 6AE

0845 2300226
www.southnorthants.gov.uk
info@southnorthants.gov.uk

(b) Ashton Parish Council Clerk,
Stephanie Fowler 01604 862904

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**Northamptonshire On Wheels
(NOW)** could help if you are:-

// - aged 16-25

// - Resident in Northamptonshire

// - Having problems getting to work,
training or education

// - Live in or need to get to a rural area.

Call Emma on 07711 926 154

Northamptonshire On Wheels
NOW
northamptonshireonwheels.org.uk

Thank You - from the Church

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Ashton Church fundraising. by buying Christmas puddings and brandy butter. We raised just over £100.

Thanks also to everyone who supported the coffee mornings at the Old Crown since Christmas. A special thanks to Dennis and the team at the Old Crown for their hospitality.



We have received a cheque for £42 from www.easyfundraising.org.uk, which accrued from anyone buying goods through the site over Christmas. This is an ongoing way to raise money for Ashton Church, so thank all of you who have been using it.

You can still continue to use www.easyfundraising.org.uk for your online purchases throughout the year to benefit St Michael & All Angels.

To find us on the web site. Click on 'find a cause' then click on 'S' and finally scroll down to find Ashton Church, which is registered as ' **St Michael and All Angels Church - Ashton** ', register your details and away you go, its very easy to use.

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Don't forget.....

We have two Ashton **CAR BOOT** sales coming up again this year.
June 2nd and August 11th

Also the **Ashton Gardens Walk**
June 17th

Why not volunteer to help - a sure way to meet people
Contact Marion 864254 for more information.

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Thank You - from Joyce Kingsbury

Joyce Kingsbury would like to thank everyone for their sponsorship of the 'Sleep out for the Homeless' she undertook earlier this year £1,079.25p was raised.

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Church Decoration

The Church will be open for decoration on Sat. 7th April from 10am. All help would be welcome, whether it is in giving flowers, greenery and/or time to make the Church look lovely again after Lent.

A Scrapbook of Ashton - 1953

The original book was created by Ashton's Womens Institute in 1953. From the original hand made book, beautifully embroidered by Kath Lever (see below). From this original book a limited number of printed copies were produced and these sold out very quickly. Precious copies were carefully put away as 'keepsakes' by many in the village.

This book was much more than a scrapbook, it covered in detail the history of our village from the earliest of times with over 60 pages many with old pictures and maps of the village.

The book has become a 'classic' for those wanting to discover the people and places of our village. Only very rarely are the original printed books found on ebay and in book shops.

Many of the original members of the Ashton Womens Institute responsible for the production of the original book have now sadly passed on. However Kath Lever, one of the key members of that group has given us permission to reproduce the book. We would like to dedicate this book to her and those past Ashton villagers mentioned in these pages.

We would also like to thank those members of the village who have loaned us their precious copies for us to reproduce.

A limited order / print run has been funded by the Village Group. We hope to have copies of the book available by the middle of April. The price will be £12.50p each and can be ordered from:

Dave Farrand 01604 863225
email: david@farrand.co.uk

All profits from the sale of this book will go towards Ashton Village Church fund.

