

Ashton News



**From the nick
to Ashton**

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September 2011

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Dutch star flies in for village festival

The first Ashton Family Music Festival, from 2pm on Saturday September 10, has been given a late boost thanks to the appearance of Dutch star Stef Woestenenk.

Stef plays under the name Steve Woodshend in the band Moonyard which has a cult following in Holland. He plans to play an acoustic session at Ashton, possibly with the band's bassist, and it seems festival goers are in for a treat.

For the band's website raves in Dutch about his "out of space gitaarwerk."

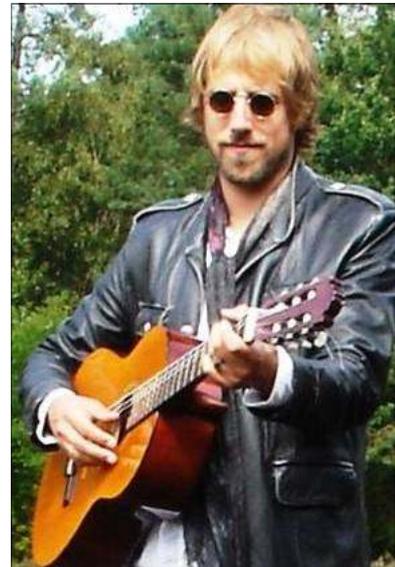
The event takes place at Bredon Hill Middle School but is

Family music and fun event will also help Air ambulance

not directly linked with it. Tickets cost £5, accompanied under 16s £3, and under 5s free.

Bretforton Silver Band will open the festival at 2pm and play two 45-minute sessions in the Prom Garden.

Next come Evesham junior Young Musician of the Year, pianist Ella Marshall Shep-



*Out of space: Stef Woestenenk.
Bretforton Silver Band below.*

herd, violinist Sophie Metcalfe, both Middle School pupils, and The Big Noise big band.

Meanwhile many of the area's finest rock/pop bands take to the main stage from 2.45 until 10.30, including Ashton's own Reborn Hero and Sofas, and rock'n'roll stars The Crooked Empire.

Activities include a penalty shoot-out with Ashton FC, wacky races, stalls, a bouncy castle, wall climbing, face painting and a fancy dress competition. Entrants must visit The Cental, next to the bar, between 2 and 3pm.

Organiser Graham Begley put on a music festival at The Black Bear, Tewkesbury, in August that he said raised £1,200 for Winston's Wish and Help for Heroes.

The Ashton event is commercial, but he said that following Alex Shirra's accident he planned a charity auction there to raise money for the Air Ambulance.



Willow Cottage - back to planners

The controversy over Willow Cottage is likely to reopen with owner William Gilder set to lodge a new plan for the site. After winning permission to extend the cottage and build another, he briefly put the site up for sale, but said he got offers only at "silly prices."

The new scheme would recreate the current gable end in a single house. Mr Gilder said he intended to take the matter to appeal if unsuccessful.

"Willow Cottage is just rough build with render. I cannot see the point of keeping it. This would improve the site," he said.

WI prepare to tickle our taste buds

A cookbook in preparation by Ashton WI will combine the best of contemporary recipes with historical insights into the village.

Members sampled many of the dishes at a taster evening and hope to have the volume completed for next year's Open Gardens or earlier.

The book will include local old sayings and stories of how Ashton people lived off the land between 100 and 50 years ago. But although set in a historical context, the seasonal recipes will be modern, including seasonal starters, main courses and desserts.

Villagers with relevant stories should contact researcher Rosemary Halliday, 881259.

Recent speakers have included Rob Hemming, who is leading the restoration of the Regal cinema, Evesham, and Frank Hardy who spoke about plants for fragrance, flower and foliage. (See also page3.)

As part of the branch's 70th birthday celebration, members were treated to an amazing spread at the cricket pavilion prepared by the committee.

They were joined by visitors from Ashton Keynes who presented the local WI a beautiful hand-made birthday card and photograph album.

Aid for South Africa

The Mzamomhle CATCH project has received £1,850 following the Ashton ploughman and pud lunch in July, allowing its work to start on a kitchen at the centre for the benefit of local children.

Be a Volunteer - make a difference

Make a Difference Day, the UK's biggest occasion for volunteering, will be held in October, but meanwhile a host of organisations in and around Ashton are seeking your help.

Bredon Hill Middle School is looking for caring adults who could spare one or two hours a week to hear children read. Those interested should contact Mrs King, 881426.

Other local opportunities can be found via Volunteer Centres behind Dresden House, Brick Kiln Street, Evesham, open 9.30-1pm, Monday to Friday, tel 40165, or at Charlotte Offices, New Road, Pershore, tel 554299, and on their websites.

Latest vacancies are for a hand and nail care assistant to work with blind or visually impaired people, to maintain an allotment for the elderly in Pershore, parent and toddler group assistants.

A recycling group is looking for a warehouse assistant, a driver's mate and even a photographer to help marketing.

Some of the more unusual positions at Pershore are for air cadet instructors to deliver a varied programme that includes flying, rock climbing and target shooting. The squadron particularly needs a music instructor with experience in marching bands.

For all these and others, contact Val Jackman, 554299, see www.do-it.org or email valj@pershorevolunteers.org.

For those seeking paid positions, a Job Club now meets at Pershore Library 2.30-3.30 on Mondays. Details from 01905 822722.

Overbury Estate Office now runs a free vacancy service for local businesses. For full details see the website at www.bredonhill.info.

Possible new homes on Groaten

An early draft of a housing strategy for Ashton shows a site for six homes on Station Road (The Groaten), the parish council has been told.

District Cllr Adrian Darby said other sites had been left out because owners were unwilling to sell. All parish councils would be consulted this year and the district plan would go to a public enquiry in 2012.

County Cllr Adrian Hardman is to be asked to investigate if the footpath in The Groaten could be continued to the A46 and how the footway, interrupted by the Wellingtonia tree

outside Old Manor Farm, could be made safe.

Anthony Sanger-Davies asked when the wall outside Rockland Cottage, Elmley Road, would be repaired. Later, owner and parish councillor Doreen Cope said she hoped the path at least would be clear in early September.

The council thanked Paul and Karen Rowley for keeping the telephone kiosk spotless, and new member Frank Moore suggested it might be used as an information centre. The council is to buy a dark green grit bin for Cornfield Way.

Ashton young and not so young set for fun run



Run, walk, skip. Do it any way you want, but do it some way.

Ashton's first Fun Run takes place over an easy course around the playing fields from 1.30 on Saturday October 8.

There are categories for all from infants to veterans, with a prize also for the oldest competitor.

More volunteers are needed to help with registering, results and refreshments. For details, contact Jo Brown 881860 or Penny Scotland 881594.

The event is organised by the Community Centre, now re-styled as Ashton Recreation Committee, and money raised will help improve the playing fields and village hall, where the kitchen is being upgraded.

For next June, the committee has decided to hold a family picnic with music to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



Ashton and Beckford-bound: Lithuanian pianist Jelena Makarova and the Santiago Quartet.



International stars launch music season

The new Parish Music season starts with a recital by soprano Jessica Summers and pianist Jelena Makarova at 8pm on Saturday September 24 at St. Barbara's Church, Ashton.

Jessica (pictured on page 1) has a repertoire from Bach to Birtwistle as varied as her venues - the Royal Albert Hall to Wandsworth prison.

She has sung for English Touring Opera for several seasons and for the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. She

has considerable experience in performing 20th Century and new music.

Jelena is a Russian-born Lithuanian and has appeared also in Russia and Sweden.

Their programme includes music by Schumann, Debussy, Venezuelan composer Reynaldo Hahn (d1947) and Barber. Jessica will also sing *Poems almost of this world*, written for her by the English composer Richard Causton.

At 8pm on Saturday 22 October, the Santiago String Quartet, formed in 2008 to play mainly Latin music, return to Parish Music at Beckford.

Suzanne Evans, viola, and Jonathan Hennessy-Brown, cello, played together in Mexico. Now with violinists Matthew Elston and Emma Blanco they play repertoire rarely heard in the UK.

At Beckford they will include the Barber Quartet op11 and Latin music by Javier Alvarez, Silvestre Revueltas, David Stock and Miguel del Anguila. More details from 881479 or 882060.

Elgar and other coming events

Wendy Hill, of the Elgar Birthplace Museum, will talk about the composer's life and music at Ashton WI at 7.30pm on Tuesday September 6. The meeting is an open one, and all are welcome to attend.

At the meeting on Tuesday October 4, animal trainer Sonia Hooper will talk about filming with dogs.

- An exhibition to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the first publication of the King

James Bible, will be shown at St. Giles Church, Bredon on Saturday 10 September 10-6, and on Sunday 11th, 2.30-5.

- The Zyder zupping evening at Ashbee in June raised £225 for the Meningitis Trust and Asthma UK.

Jen and Colin Creese thanked all for their support, and it was suggested that the golden nectar with cheese and pickles might provide the fare for an annual event.