



## Middle school site takes step forward

The likelihood of houses being built opposite Breton Hill middle school has greatly increased following a review by Wychavon district council.

Councillors this month added the site to those regarded as suitable for development over the next 20 years.

Consultations will follow from 6 August to 14 September, including an exhibition in Beckford on Wednesday 5 September.

If then confirmed by the district council, this would establish the principle that houses could be erected there, but any scheme would still have to win approval regarding issues such as design, housing mix, and access.

The site is one of several around Ashton where development had previously been ruled out, in this case because its ownership was unknown.

Then, during last year's consultation, landowner David Eaton came forward with a plan for 25 homes – 11 of them affordable housing – plus off-road parking and a turning loop for buses.

## Autumn expo to give public another say

As a result, a planning officer recommended that 12 houses might be built in an area about half that proposed by Mr Eaton.

This was approved by councillors preparing the South Worcestershire Development Plan, and on 3 July a full Wychavon meeting agreed to include the smaller site in the next consultative stage.

This was despite earlier parish council concerns about traffic in the area. It was one of around 100 new sites in Wychavon proposed by owners for development. Most were rejected, including one between Rockland House and Little Owl Farm, and another between Back Lane and Beckford Road.

Land at the corner of The Groaten and Back Lane had already been included for six houses, although as chairman Gerry Barnett told the parish council this did not imply that the owner would wish to sell.



*King for a Queen: Andy at Pershore on Jubilee Monday.*

## Enter the King - or could it be the Rev?

ELVIS is coming to Ashton! Well, not quite the King of Rock & Roll himself, but someone who does a highly watchable tribute act.

Former vicar Andy Kelso, who lives near Pershore, is bringing his Elvis Presley Gospel Tribute Act to the Village Hall on Friday, September 14th, from 7.30pm.

Andy sings the best of Elvis, including rock songs, ballads and a few Gospel numbers. He is currently Chaplain to the Worcester Warriors Rug-

by Club and, as well as talking about little-known aspects of Elvis's story of faith, Andy has an incredible story to tell about the ups and downs of his own life and how he came to faith.

Andy has appeared on BBC radio and next month is to appear on TV's Rob Brydon Show.

Admission includes soft drinks (bring your own wine), and supper.

Tickets are £5 each from David and Helena Wood on 881402, email [wood.david83@gmail.com](mailto:wood.david83@gmail.com)

## Now we can help the life-savers

Four times over the last year people in Ashton have received emergency help from the Midlands Air Ambulance .

At least one, parish councillor Jeff Fletcher, believes he owes his life to the flying paramedics.

So now wife Angela and her daughters are holding a coffee morning in the Village Hall from 10.30 to 1pm on Bank Holiday Saturday 25th August in its support.

"We should like as many as possible to attend. You never know when you may need this wonderful service," she said.

Donations are welcome from those unable to come. Call Angela on 882057 for details.

## Get zum cider inside yer

Ashton's 2nd Cider Fest will be held at 7pm on Sat. 14 July at Ashbee, Wood Lane home of Jen and Colin Creese.

In addition to the brew made by Colin and son Peter, there will be bread, cheese and nibbles.

Donations go to the Meningitis Trust. For more information, call 881266.

## Parish music

Trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins will open the 2012 Parish Music season with a master class and concert at St Giles, Bredon, on 6 October. Details from Alastair Humphrey 881479

## Your Ashton News - an appeal

Could you be the new voluntary editor of Ashton News?

After spending many happy years in the village, the current editor and his wife are likely to be moving from Ashton shortly.

The newsletter appears four or five times a year, based mostly on information sent in by contributors. It usually

takes two to three days to compile.

The format can be adapted to a simple style just requiring headings and text to be fed into a template. The current editor, Colin Davison, will happily set this up and help a successor take over smoothly.

Please contact him on 882364 or via [colin.davison@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colin.davison@hotmail.co.uk)

## Allotments win interest from village schools

Moves to create Ashton allotments are beginning to bear fruit - if not yet vegetables - the parish council has been told.

Frank Moore, the councillor behind the scheme, said 23 people had put their names forward, and interest could go wider.

"We have both schools interested, particularly the middle school," he said.

"And there is a suggestion we have a community allotment. Non-gardening members, people who cannot still garden, may like to go down there."

Keith Marshall has been appointed as chairman of an allotment association, with Sarah Sunderland

secretary. A publicity campaign is planned for September's village fete.

But not all the groundwork has proceeded smoothly.

The only site available are the two acres offered by Richard and Christine Shaw who bought Ashton Garden Plant Centre on the A46 last year.

Neighbour Stephen Spires of Brooklands handed a letter to the parish council, complaining of lack of consultation, and objecting to the use of the land and to the possible lighting of bonfires there.

Cllr Moore said alternative access routes were being investigated, and the association could decide to prohibit bonfires.

## Christmas Bach on ukelele

Mark the date now - Saturday 1st December - for the next Ashton Shindig concert, and an remarkable recital by Classic FM virtuoso guitarist Richard Durrant.

From traditional carols to the Sugar Plum Fairy, the laid-back Durrant takes listeners on a world tour backed by film, in which Silent Night drifts across the Mississippi, and JS Bach is played as you've never heard him.

Watch for details, but reserve the date now.

## Open Gardens raise £7,000 for church and village hall

The Open Gardens weekend last month attracted 1,050 visitors.

As a result, organisers have made an award of £7,000 toward renovation work at St Barbara's and improvements to the Village Hall kitchen.

Donations totalling £225 have gone also to Bredon Hill Middle School gardening club, Ashton WI and the guides.

Event chairman John Dodge said visitors praised the colourful gardens, the friendly welcome and the smooth organisation. On behalf of the committee, he thanked all concerned.

Planning has already started for the 2013 event on 8-9 June and the committee would love to hear from anyone keen to become involved, or with suggestions.

"I hope we can count on your involvement with this event in 2013 which brings pleasure to so many people and benefits our village community," John said.

Contact him on 881487.

# Miss the Jubilee big picture? Come to the cricket club instead

THERE is more reason than ever for Ashton villagers to pop along to the cricket club's annual village social night this month.

The popular event at the playing fields on Friday, July 20th, from 7pm - the day local schools break up for summer - has the usual fun and games, including a barbecue, skittles and an 'Olympic' egg-throwing competition.

And after the planned Ashton Diamond Jubilee village photograph was washed out a few weeks ago, organisers are hoping as many villagers as possible will turn out to the village social night for an official village photo to be taken at 8pm.

Musical entertainment will be provided during the evening by Bacchus, a Warwick-based band who have been performing for over 40 years and who play their own compositions as well as covers ranging from the Rolling Stones to Bryan Adams.

They will be supported by Maxed Out, a trio from Sedgeberrow who won last year's Wychavon W Factor competition and went forward from the NEC regional final to play in an area final in Bedford.

**Long reign,  
more rain :**  
*Hillside  
scenes from  
the Jubilee  
celebrations  
at the  
Cuckoo Pen  
Bakers Lane,  
Ashton.*



You don't have to be an Ashton resident to attend Everyone is welcome. A donation from the pro-

ceeds will be made to the Midlands Air Ambulance. For details contact David Wood on 881402.

## Rare footage of Ashton celebrations now online

Villagers can now watch past royal celebrations in Ashton online.

The 1953 Coronation party and fete was recorded by local farmer, the late Tom Archer.

This has been put to music - *They're Changing Guard at Buckingham Palace* - by his youngest son John, who grew up in Ashton and now works as a TV and film producer.

The second portion of the film, *The Secrets of Bredon Hill*, recalls the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1977.

Farmer-turned-author Fred Archer, Tom's younger brother is seen watching the Jubilee procession parade up past his home at Stanley Farmhouse, opposite the Star Inn.

The film ends with footage of the Silver Jubilee bonfire on Bredon Hill.

To see it, go to Youtube and type into the top box watch?y=YTty-IZPwnz4

## Footways under scrutiny

County councillor Adrian Hardman has dashed hopes that the footway on The Groaten might be extended toward the A46. It would cost £150k for little usage, he told the parish council.

But he did promise to press for improvement of

the footway to Willow Close in the next financial year, and said that work should be carried out in July to stop further erosion to the verge outside Rookery Nook.

He also hoped the village's speed-activated signs would be put up soon.

## Tidy up site, owner urged

Wychavon has asked the owner of Willow Cottage, William Gilder, to clarify his intentions for the site following the latest refusal of a planning application.

The council said that approval of an earlier plan for a second property was "a compromise" based on

the hope that it would lead to improvement of the site and the cottage. The later plan was similar to others previously rejected, and the council could refuse to accept repeat applications.

It asked that the cottage should be repaired to prevent further deterioration.



## Fete looks forward with look to past

An expanded programme is due to be unveiled for the revitalised Ashton fete and show on Saturday 8 September.

Organisers plan to send details and entry forms to every house before the end of the school term.

The 82 show classes ranging from marrows to monsters, include home baking, wine-making and photography.

The entire programme has a retro theme.

"The idea is to put on a good old-fashioned fete for all the family," said Carol Reeve.

Entertainment includes a demonstration by TV stunt dogs, with a question and answer session with their trainer to follow.

Dance school DeNovo will perform, and there will be alpacas, army vehicles, a barbecue and games.

Organisers hope to set up an inter-village tug of war.

Books, DVDs, music, toys and china - but not clothing - are wanted for the used goods stall, and helpers will be warmly welcomed.

In the evening there will be music in the marquee with the Crazy 88s, pork baps, real ale and cider.

Meanwhile, raffle tickets are available from The Star and committee members due to call door-to-door to win £500 cash or prizes including a flat screen TV.

For details, contact Ian Clarkson, 881902.



*Over the wall: WI members stop to chat with a dry stone waller during their Bredon Hill walk.*

## Local sourcing wins Star award

The Star has long been known for sourcing its pork from its family farm at Grafton.

Now environmental group Transition Evesham Vale has recognised its support for many local producers by giving the pub its 30/30 accolade. This means that at least 30% of its ingredients come from within a 30-mile radius.

"our other meat is supplied by local butchers from local herds, and our vegetables by Pershore Produce who gather their supplies from within the Vale." Vicky Lawson said.

"The fish still come from the Cornish coast three times a week, but at least it's completely fresh, and we are working on being the first pub to get an award for over 70% of our ingredients coming from

the Vale."

World Food Nights at 7pm on the last Thursday of the month continue with an American theme in July, Australian in August - hopefully outside on the barbie - and Spanish in September.

Menus are displayed a month in advance, with a 3-course menu of at least ten dishes and a free themed drink.

From 5 to 9pm on Tuesdays the pub offers two dishes from the Star Classics menu for the price of one. Booking is essential for all the above.

As usual, the Star will hold a beer and cider festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend when it hopes to offer an extra ten ales and four ciders. Families are welcome.

## WI backs call for midwives

Ashton WI members have voted unanimously to support the employment of more midwives.

They were told there was a national shortage of trained midwives, and if agreed by others, the resolution will go forward for debate at the annual meeting at the Albert Hall.

More than 260 copies have been sold of the branch's super cookbook, so it was decided to give £100 to a body that helps women overseas, and which is currently providing training for traditional birth attendants in Ghana. Recent speakers have talked about Celtic appliqué and garden birds.

David Cramp of the RSPB explained that the spotted woodpecker destroyed more nests than the hated magpie because it produces more than one clutch of eggs.