



# Ashton News

10th anniversary issue!



Ashton News reaches its tenth anniversary with this issue, having begun in January 1999 with news of Millennium tree-planting, improvements in the children's playground, a party for the Millennium in the village hall (were you there?!), a plea to collect Walkers' crisps tokens for free school books, a dance at Bredon Hill Middle School, meetings of the Gardening Club and publicity for Ashton Players' Music Hall, now sadly defunct.

Since then we've tried to provide a regular, informative and impartial noticeboard for the whole village. The newsletter is sponsored by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community, and is produced entirely by voluntary effort. We have five editions a year - more if there's the demand - and Ashton News is distributed free to every household in the village, through our dedicated team of volunteer distributors.

With regular special editions for Ashton Fete and Produce Show, as well as for the Village Plan initiative, we've produced a total of 56 editions of the newsletter in the past 10 years. However, Malcolm Nelson, the editor, now needs to step down to make time for other community activities and so we're looking for someone to take over his role. If you're a PC and email user, familiar with MS Publisher or similar and would like to see Ashton News continue, please get in touch with him on **881778** or email [malcolm-nelson@lineone.net](mailto:malcolm-nelson@lineone.net)

**Old Christmas Cards** and other cards can be left at Ashton PO for collection. They go to the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham, who make new cards from them and recycle the ones they can't use. Please leave them whole or if you want to take the backs off, cut them so that the spine of the card is intact. Thank you.



**Swingers in Suspenders**  
Ashton Village Hall  
Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>  
8pm



After the excitement of Christmas, and now the New Year is upon us, are you feeling a bit flat? Why not cheer up January by coming along to **Swingers and Suspenders** in the Village Hall, which will be transformed into the **King Villa Lounge, Hollywood**, for a great evening's entertainment.

King Villa performers Jo King and Alexi Harden sing, dance and play piano, trumpet, tenor sax and guitar in 'Glorious Technicolor'. A burlesque review of the 1930s, 40s and 50s, it's bold and brassy, occasionally risqué and certainly great entertainment.

It will be a cabaret evening, complete with candles and nibbles. Bring your own drink and glasses and **all for just £7 a ticket**.



This is proving a popular event so don't waste time, talk to your friends and reserve a table together.  
**Penny Scotland 881594**

**Parish Music** resumes after the Christmas break with three exciting concerts. All concerts start at 8pm and conclude with an opportunity to meet the performers and enjoy a drink of wine or fruit juice in the church afterwards. Admission £10 (students free). For more details please see: [www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk/organisations/music](http://www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk/organisations/music)

**Choral Delights**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
**St Faith's Church, Overbury 8pm**

The Oriel Singers had just won the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year competition when they last sang for Parish Music in 2005. Founded in 1975 as a quartet meeting in Oriel Terrace, Cheltenham, the original group sang simply for pleasure and had no intention of performing. The choir soon grew and Tim Morris was invited to become director. Numbering about 28, the members still meet primarily for their own enjoyment but now give around 12 concerts a year at home and abroad.

Two more concert dates for your diary:

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 8pm St Barbara's Church, Ashton under Hill**  
*Jessica Thomas, violin and Ashok Gupta piano.*

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 8pm St Nicholas' Church, Teddington**  
*Trio Ébano: flute clarinet and bassoon*

**Parish Music 2009**

## More Footpath News



Since my last article in November, I have been asked for some clarification on the rights of walkers when crossing land which is managed for shooting. This is legal stuff which is strictly outside my brief as Parish Paths Warden so I would encourage anyone who wants to be certain of their rights to do a little research of their own. The Ramblers Association website [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) is an ideal resource – just type “shooting” or “trespass” into their search tool. However, with the proviso that this is purely my personal understanding and is not official guidance, I will attempt a few general points:

- *You only have a legal right to walk on private land if you are on a Public Right of Way or have the permission of the landowner.*
- *All Public Rights of Way are recorded on `definitive maps` which are available from local authorities, some libraries and online. Some are shown on walkers' maps.*
- *Most are sign-posted where they start from the Public Highway and should be marked with yellow or blue way-mark disks along the route. Not all are marked yet.*
- *Cyclists and horse riders can use bridleways (blue disks) but not footpaths (yellow disks).*
- *`Freedom to Roam` legislation was introduced in 2004 but this only applies to areas of land which have been legally classified as such. There is none in our parish nor any part of Bredon Hill.*
- *Some local landowners have granted temporary rights for people to walk on their land even where there is no Public Right of Way. We currently enjoy the use of a permissive path at the top of Bredon Hill and access to Ashton Wood by courtesy of the landowners. There are signs to identify those areas and your rights to use them.*
- *If you are off the Public Right of Way without permission, then you are trespassing.*
- *Trespass is a civil offence, not a criminal offence, so you are not at risk of instant arrest by the Police just because you have strayed off the footpath.*
- *Landowners can enforce their legal rights against trespassers - too complicated a subject for this article.*
- *Use of land for shooting does not confer any special rights on the landowner in relation to Public Rights of Way. In fact they have to take special care not to endanger walkers or riders.*

Some landowners may choose to be relaxed about people straying off the footpath but that cannot be taken for granted. If you want to enjoy country walks in peace, you must know where you are legally entitled to walk and what your rights and responsibilities are when doing so. This information is easily obtainable via the internet. You are welcome to ask me if you are in any doubt about the public footpaths in our parish. I have a copy of the definitive map at Hollymount.

*Joe Aspey, Parish Paths Warden*

### Fund-raising for St Richard's Hospice

The final total raised for St Richard's Hospice at the Christmas Fair at The Old Farmhouse in November last year was £1820 (the addition of tax refunds from Gift Aided donations will bring this figure to over £1900 for the Hospice). We are very grateful to everyone for their support.

Marilyn Peachey, Director of Fundraising for St Richard's, has asked for their sincere thanks to be passed on to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. She writes “we now help 1800 patients and their families each year through all our services, including our nurses in the community and our family support team... We need to find 70% of the £4.23m it costs to provide our services this year”.

Two groups from the parish visited the Hospice in 2007 and were very impressed with what a lovely place it is. Several people have subsequently expressed an interest in visiting St Richard's. If you would like to take part in a visit in the Spring, please contact **Alex Dodge 881487**.



**St. Richard's Hospice**  
CARING FOR LIFE

### A Happy New Year from St Barbara's Church!

Services in St Barbara's Church are held at 9.30 am, offering a range of worship every month:

First Sundays	<b>Morning Prayer</b> from the Book of Common Prayer
Second Sundays	<b>Holy Communion</b> from Common Worship
Third Sundays	<b>Family Service</b> - an informal service for all the family of the church. <b>15 February: Jesus the Healer</b> led by John Dodge
<b>22 February</b>	Our <b>United Parish Communion</b> Service is in St Barbara's, Ashton under Hill, at <b>10.00 am</b>

Details of Mothering Sunday and Easter services will be published in the March issue of Ashton News, and in the March and April issues of the Parish Magazine.

**There is an opportunity to stay for a chat and refreshments after each service. You are warmly invited to come and join in worship at St Barbara's.**

## Lent Lunches

There will be a series of simple lunches – homemade soup and a cheese roll – at venues around Bredon Hill at 12.30pm on Fridays during Lent, with donations to charity. Last year we raised £1000 for St Richard's Hospice and this year we will be supporting the Friends of Pershore and Tewkesbury Hospitals. Fuller details will be published in the February and March issues of the Parish Magazine. Do come along and meet friends old and new and support a good cause:

**Friday 27 February** Adsett Cottage Beckford and **Friday 6 March** Manor Farmhouse, Bredon; both at 12.30pm.

**This year's Lent Lunch in Ashton will be at The Old Farmhouse, Elmley Road, on Friday 13 March.** For further information please contact Alex and John Dodge on **881487**.

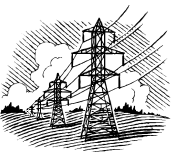
## Ashton under Hill Football Club



Ashton under Hill FC makes the turn into 2009 in a good position: the team is currently second in Division 3 of the Birdseye Sunday League, having won 7 games, lost 2, drawn 1. They now have 22 points out of 27, with 8 games to go.

Also for the first time in the club's 20 year history they are in the quarter finals of the Worcestershire county minor cup - in this competition you can be drawn against teams from Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Worcester and Evesham leagues. The team has also secured a place in the quarter final of the Evesham League Bluck Cup.

The next fixture is on **25 January**, away to Sporting Hagley in the Worcestershire County Cup. Please go to our website to find out more details and latest news about your local football team: [www.webteams.co.uk/ashtonfc](http://www.webteams.co.uk/ashtonfc) *Nick Organ*



## Undergrounding of Electricity Cables

As some Ashton residents will know, letters recently sent by Central Networks say that the work started in December to put electricity lines underground is scheduled to be completed by April. Obviously the present weather won't help but the project is now going ahead.

The scheme was proposed by the Parish Council and by the Cotswold Conservation Board, and Central Networks is funding the estimated cost of £270,000 through a financial mechanism set up specifically to allow electricity distributors to put wires underground in AONBs and National Parks.

The next edition of Ashton News will be published in March.

If there's something you'd like to include please let us have details by Friday 6 March.



## Ashton Open Gardens 2009

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June

This year's Ashton Open Gardens event will take place on **Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June**. We had excellent weather and a record number of visitors last year, so we're hoping for another successful weekend in 2009.

This is a major fundraising occasion for St Barbara's Church and for the Community Centre, as well as being an enjoyable occasion for the village and our many visitors. Please make a note in your diary now!

Our theme this year is 'Gardens for Gardeners' and we're particularly keen to have some smaller gardens on show. Many of our visitors come from towns and cities and are looking for ideas about what can be done in a small space. Even if your 'grand design' is still under development, the many enthusiasts who come to Ashton for Open Gardens would love to see what you're planning. If you think you might like to open your garden and haven't done so before, **John Dodge** would love to hear from you on **881487**.

*Malcolm Nelson 881778*  
[marketing@ashtonopengardens.co.uk](mailto:marketing@ashtonopengardens.co.uk)

## Tokens Wanted Please!

**Ashton First School** is asking all readers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* newspapers to help us improve the school library! Every week, for 12 weeks from 11 January, these newspapers are printing **12 Books for Schools** tokens: four in *The Sunday Times*, three on Saturday in *The Times* and one each day from Monday to Friday. These tokens can, in turn, be exchanged for hundreds of interesting and stimulating books from a number of excellent children's authors.

We are very keen to collect as many tokens as possible so as to encourage our pupils to read, giving them the chance to develop their imaginations and improve their literacy skills. If you read *The Times*, please cut out the tokens and save them for us! Tokens can be put through the door of the school at any time or given to one of our pupils to bring in to school. Thank you!

*Bryony Baynes*

**Jeremy and Christine King** wish to thank all who contributed to the Air Ambulance during 2008. "We handed over the magnificent sum of £1,192 to this very worthy charity. We would also like to thank others (especially Dave Wilson) who contributed their produce for sale."

## Ashton News Contacts

**Malcolm Nelson**  
The Old Granary  
The Groaten, 881778  
[malcolm-nelson@lineone.net](mailto:malcolm-nelson@lineone.net)

**John Scotland**  
The Yarde  
Elmley Road, 881594  
[JPScotland@home.gb.com](mailto:JPScotland@home.gb.com)