



Ashton News

Practical Help for Belarus



A lorry will be going from Bredon Hill Middle School in Ashton, during the Easter holidays, taking practical help to the community at Uzda. This is the third year they have undertaken this journey in their mission to improve the quality of life for children in Belarus.

- Soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, disposable nappies for babies for the orphanage.
- Stationery - pens, pencils, rulers, rubbers, felt-tip pens - everything children need in a classroom.
- Videos which can be used for educational purposes; videos of books are ideal, e.g. 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

We are very pleased that a member of St Barbara's congregation and a student at BHMS, Elliot Swift, has been chosen to take part in the visit this year.

Anything you can contribute will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. There will be collecting boxes in St Barbara's Church, Ashton, for four weeks from Sunday 13 January, to Sunday 3 February*, inclusive, for donations of:

(* this early cut off date is because a month is needed to organise customs clearance before departure.)

Please give generously, to enable the children to enjoy that which we take for granted. If you prefer, you can take your donation directly to the Middle School office.

Thank you

A date for your diary: Sunday 2 March

All are warmly welcome to this year's **Mothering Sunday Family Service** in St Barbara's Church at **9.30 am**, when we give thanks for our mums and grannies, with posies for the children to give to them.

Back by popular demand...

Ashton Cricket Club's Annual Quiz

Saturday 23 February
Ashton Village Hall at 7.30pm

Register your teams of four (£2.50 per head) with **David Hudson-Wood 881839**. Plenty of prizes. Bar available. Let's make it a sell-out just like last year's event!



There will be a series of **Lent Lunches** in villages around Bredon Hill, starting on Friday 8 February, and finishing on **Friday 14 March at The Old Farmhouse, Elmley Road, Ashton**. Lunches start at 12.30 pm, and home-made soup and cheese rolls are served; all donations will go to charity. Full details of the other venues and the charity which will benefit this year can be found in the February issue of the Parish Magazine. All are welcome - do come along and enjoy food and friendship while supporting a good cause. The venues for the Lent Lunches are:

8 February	True Blue Farm, Kinsham
15 February	St Benet's RC Church Hall, Kemerton
22 February	Adsett Cottage, Beckford
29 February	Manor Farm, Bredon
7 March	tba: see Feb issue of Parish Magazine
14 March	The Old Farmhouse, Ashton under Hill (John & Alex Dodge)

Phil Alexander and Greg Lawson present:

Box and Fiddle **but Not As You Know It!**

Sunday 2 March
Ashton Village Hall
8.00pm



Two brilliant musicians, Phil Alexander and Greg Lawson, will be in Ashton as part of the County's acclaimed Rural and Community Touring Scheme, **Shindig**, which brings high quality live arts to rural venues. Phil and Greg's music spans the world - Scotland, Ireland, Finland, Eastern Europe, Brazil. Traditional tunes are given a new twist, and original music is built from all the influences that they have encountered on their musical adventures. You will hear seductive waltzes, driving Balkan and Klezmer dances, heart-stopping tangos, foot-stomping reels and more - all played with wit, style and passion.

Tickets £8.00 including snacks and sandwiches, bring your own drinks. Available from Penny 881594 or Ashton Post Office.

PILATES sessions have now started again, in Ashton Village Hall every Tuesday from 1045 to 1145; everyone welcome. Please contact **Julie Farr 710868** or just come along.



This year's **Ashton Open Gardens** will be on **Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June**. Further details in the next Ashton News or on our website at: www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk

St Barbara's Church Fundraising and Charitable Giving in 2007



We would like to thank everyone who supported St Barbara's fundraising efforts in the past year, which have raised £2740 for St Barbara's Roof Fund, and £1612 for charities, including the CATCH Project, the Macmillan Unit at Evesham Hospital and St Richard's Hospice. An especial "thank you" to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Fair in November, for which the final total was just over £1900, of which we sent £600 to St Richard's; their Director of Fundraising, Marilyn Peachey wrote "Please pass on our sincere thanks to all those who contributed to this very generous donation to the hospice. I can assure you the money will be used entirely in caring for our patients and families. Demand is increasing all the time and it is tremendously busy here behind the scenes; however, our patients tell us that the peace and tranquillity, and care they receive is truly wonderful."

In addition a total of £1003, including Gift Aid where applicable, was collected at special services during the year for the following charities: the CATCH Project, Concern Worldwide (Harvest), Children's Society (Christingle), Save the Children Fund Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Appeal (Celebration of Christmas).

Ashton Celebration of Christmas

Over 155 Ashtonians and friends from neighbouring villages entered into the Christmas spirit and created their own warmth on a cold night in St Barbara's church: We were delighted by Ashton First School Year 3 children's spirited rendering of songs from their Christmas production, entertained by various talented young musicians and members of JAMDRAM, and led in spirited singing by the tuneful Ashton Singers. The evening was rounded off by mulled wine and mince pies, and a collection was taken for Save the Children Fund's Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Appeal which amounted to £207, including Gift Aid. One of the congregation said afterwards "I know I am in a church, but it feels like being welcomed into someone's home": We hope each and every one has felt warmly welcomed into God's house this Christmas.

New Year's Day Football

Very many thanks must go to everyone who played, cooked, ate, drank and supported the successful New Year's Day Football Match in Ashton. A good time was had by all. See you again next year!

Pictures are available online at:
www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk



Parish Council Matters

- There will be a **Village Clean-Up** on **Saturday 2 February**. Please meet at 1000 at the Playing Fields for a worthwhile and fun couple of hours' activity. Gloves and sacks provided.
- Tenders are invited for **Grass Cutting**, six times a year throughout the village. Details from **Jane Hopkins 881497**, Clerk to the Council. Closing date: end of February.

The two forthcoming Parish Council meetings are the most significant in the year. At the **Annual Parish Meeting 11 March** residents are invited to raise and discuss all matters and issues concerning the village. A regular meeting of the Parish Council will take place after the Annual Parish meeting. The **Annual Parish Council Meeting 13 May** is when the councillors elect the chair and other officers for the following year, before conducting normal business.

Members of the public are always welcome to sit in on all the bi-monthly Parish Council meetings, and at every meeting some time is set aside for the public to ask questions and express their views. All meetings are held in the Green Room from 7.30pm. The Agenda and Minutes of the meetings are published on the Ashton website: www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk

Jeff Fletcher, Chairman

Ashton News will next be published in early March. If there's something you'd like included please let us have details by Friday 29 February.

Ashton News Contacts:

Malcolm Nelson
The Old Granary
The Groaten, 881778
malcolm-nelson@lineone.net

John Scotland
The Yarde
Elmley Road, 881594
JPScotland@home.gb.com

Best wishes for 2008 from the Ashton News team