

Gloria!

An Evening of Music from The Avon Singers

We welcome back this well-known local choir to St Barbara's Church on **Saturday 28 March at 7.30pm**. They will be performing Vivaldi's *Gloria* together with excerpts from *The Armed Man* and other particular favourites from their repertoire. Do join them as the choir celebrates its fourth decade of music making.



All are welcome to what is hoped will be another sell-out evening. Wine and soft drinks will be served in the interval. Tickets £8, available from **Gilly Aspey 881539** and a donation will go to *Fighting Malaria in Uganda with VSO*.

Mothering Sunday 22 March

Everyone is warmly invited to come and join in a Family Service to give thanks for our mothers and grandmothers, and for all that they do for us throughout the year, on **Sunday 22 March at 10.00 am** at St Barbara's Church, in Ashton.

*There will be posies
for mums and grannies,
and refreshments afterwards.*



*See page 3 for details of services
for Easter in St Barbara's Church.*

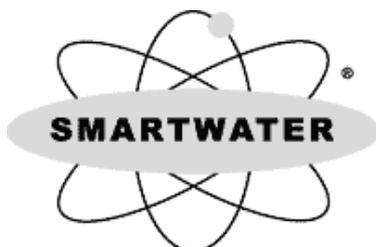
Neighbourhood Watch News

SmartWater still available!

In late February there was a burglary at a house in Elmley Road. This is therefore a timely reminder to Ashton residents that **SmartWater**, the property marking fluid with more codes than DNA, is still available courtesy of Evesham and Pershore Neighbourhood Watch. If you forgot to order a SmartWater pack during the launch last year, you can do so now, by letting Ted Williams have a cheque for £20 payable to *E & P NWA*. This is subsidised at less than half price, see: www.smartwater.com

For any queries and to order your own SmartWater pack please get in touch with **Ted Williams** at 1 Manor Gardens, **881018**, who will co-ordinate the orders.

Oh, and by the way the house that had the burglary was not SmartWater protected...



Ashton Litter Pick

Please come and help clear our roadside verges of litter. Starting at **10.00am** at the Playing Fields on **Saturday 28 March**.



Piano and Violin Saturday 4 April St Barbara's Church Ashton, 8pm

Jessica Thomas, violin, and **Ashok Gupta**, piano, are two talented young musicians studying at Clare College, Cambridge. Their programme includes a very topical *Spring Sonata by Beethoven*, as well as *JS Bach's Gavotte en Rondeau from the Partita no 3 in E major* and music by *Kreisler and Messiaen*.

Jessica is in her fourth year, studying for a B.Mus. She is also a Choral Scholar and has participated in the University Instrumental Award Scheme, which exists to promote the performance of chamber music.

Ashok is in his second year at Clare, reading Music. He regularly performs with and conducts the college Chapel Choir, and recently composed a Jazz Mass for them. While a pupil at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, he gained his ABRSM Diploma in 2004 and became Young Musician of Gloucestershire in 2005.

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

Another concert date for your diary:

Saturday 16 May 8pm St Nicholas' Church, Teddington
Trio Ébano: flute clarinet and bassoon

Parish Music 2009

With the support of his family and colleagues, the money which was collected to mark Ashton's gratitude for Don's years of service as our postman will be used to provide a memorial bench somewhere in Ashton. If you would like to give to the fund and haven't yet done so, the collecting box is still available in Ashton Post Office. Further details from **Christine King 881273**



Let's Cook!



Women's
Institute

The Women's Institute's *Let's Cook* project has been running since 1995, and is sponsored by the Food Standards Agency. We have been very fortunate to have been given the funding for two Baby Belling ovens by *Worcestershire County Council*. Other Belling appliances and Stoves cookware have been provided by *Glen Dimplex*. The project is all about teaching parents of school-aged children, basic cookery skills. There are several courses in Worcestershire at present but the Evesham area and outlying villages seems to have missed out so far on this worthwhile project.

Many young people in previous generations have left school with very little knowledge of basic skills in nutrition, cooking and managing to eat healthily on a low budget. Two WI ladies from Ashton under Hill are undertaking training at present and hope to locate a suitable venue to organise a one-evening-a-week, six-week course providing hands-on skills to 4/5 people in the area. The courses will be free and participants can either take home, or stay and eat together, the food they cook each session. It is the WI's hope that their enthusiasm and experience will enthuse course members to try cooking at home, providing their families with healthier and cost effective meals.

Please contact either **Jennifer Creese 01386 881266** or **Nadine Simpkin 881162** if you are interested in taking part.

Community Centre News

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Community Centre Committee will be on **Thursday 16 April at 7.30pm** in the Green Room. You are invited to come along, especially if you have any concerns or suggestions for the Village Hall or Playing fields. Nominations for the committee would be very welcome. Please contact **Tony Lewis** on **881555** if you are interested in being on the committee or would like to nominate someone.

Advance Notice: Ashton Frolics

The Community Centre Committee is in the process of arranging a series of activities for 7-13 year-olds on four Wednesdays in the summer school holidays. Activities already set up include tennis coaching, Frisbee, athletics and gymnastic sessions, and there is more to come. Keep an eye open for more information in the next issue of *Ashton News*.

Penny Scotland 881594

Ashton Open Gardens 2009

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June

www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk



This year's Open Gardens event is now taking shape, aiming to raise funds for the community and for St Barbara's Church. If you're interested in sharing your garden with our visitors but haven't finally decided yet, please talk to **John Dodge 881487**. This year we are particularly interested in increasing the number of small gardens on display.

- If you can spare some time on the day, to assist with things like programme sales, car parking, catering, plant stalls or point duty, your help would be very much appreciated. Please contact **John Kenrick 881431** or by email at: johnkenrick@btinternet.com
- Our exhibition in St Barbara's Church will be *Images of Ashton*, an illustration of our village from times past right up to the present day - with a special emphasis on village activities. If you have any pictures of village events, clubs and societies, Jubilee celebrations, old shops and tradesmen in Ashton, village characters or aerial views, and would be willing to loan them for copying, please contact **John Dodge 881487**.
- Please will you help publicise our event in your office or workplace? If you are able to display or distribute posters or flyers to promote Ashton Open Gardens, **Kathryn Perry 882316** or **Alex Dodge 881487** can let you have copies - or you can download a poster from www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk

Malcolm Nelson 881778
marketing@ashtonopengardens.co.uk

FAMILY WORSHIP FOR EASTER IN ST BARBARA'S CHURCH



Come on the Journey to Jerusalem

Palm Sunday
Sunday 5 April
at 10.00 am

Jesus lives! Join in the Joyful Celebrations

Easter Day
Sunday 12 April
at 10.00 am

followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Cross Buns!

*All are warmly welcome at these services
and for refreshments afterwards*

St Barbara's Churchyard Clear

Please come along on **Saturday 11 April** between **9.30 am and 12.00 noon** and help to keep your village churchyard looking neat and tidy. It would be helpful if you could also bring your own tools; but refreshments will be provided.

Apart from grass and hedge cutting, the maintenance of St Barbara's churchyard is dependent entirely on voluntary help. Many hands make light work, so if you can spare an hour or so it would be greatly appreciated. **Alastair Humphrey 881479**, churchwarden, would be delighted to hear from you.

101 things to do with a wheelie bin....

1. Cut away most of the bin with a chainsaw, leaving a useful sack truck...
2. Disguise with stick-on wall paper to look like a Cotswold stone or red brick pillar...
3. Paint bright red to resemble a Royal Mail letter box (empty daily)
4. Stop grumbling and put your waste in it, I suppose...

Julian Alington

Young Family of Four Keen to Move to Ashton!

My wife and I, and two young daughters (aged 5 and 7 months old), are very keen to move to Ashton under Hill. We are relocating to the area from Scotland and have set our hearts on settling in Ashton. The school and the sense of community have been the key attractions for us and we are keen on becoming part of the village.

We are looking to rent for the first 12 months then buy once we have sold our house in Scotland. We are looking for a good sized 4 bedroom house in the centre of the village, and are able to offer the security of a company let.

If you are thinking about putting your property on the market please get in touch. Thanks.

Clark Grant 07775 904449

clark.grant@amcor-flexibles.com

New Website for The Star

Our village pub has a great new website. Why not have a look at:
www.thestar-ashtonunderhill.co.uk



Tokens Still Wanted Please!

Ashton First School is asking all readers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* newspapers to collect **Books for Schools** tokens to help augment the school's library. 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

Visit to St Richard's Hospice

Would you like to visit St Richard's Hospice in Worcester and have an insight into the wonderful work that is undertaken both 'in house' and outreach in the local community? Those people who came on previous visits to St Richard's were stunned by what a beautiful, uplifting and positive place it is. We hope to take a group after Easter – this would be early evening on a weekday.

If you are interested, please contact **Alex Dodge 881487**. There is no charge, but a donation to St Richard's Hospice would be appreciated; the staff and volunteers give freely of their time to conduct these visits.

The next edition of
Ashton News will be published in
May (*last one before September*).

If there's something you'd like to
include please let us have details by
Friday 8 May.

Ashton News Contacts

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