



Ashton News



Please come to a Christmas Fair for St Richard's Hospice

Saturday 15 November

from 2.30 to 4.30pm

The Old Farmhouse, Elmley Road



This is your ideal opportunity to buy a range of original and affordable Christmas gifts, decorations, cards and giftwrap, and stock your larder with delicious cakes, preserves and produce, and goodies galore!

Christmas Crafts, Gifts & Decorations
Christmas Gifts Bring and Buy • Cakes and Preserves
Plants and Produce • Prize Draws • Grand Raffle
Teas in the Farmhouse kitchen
St Richard's Hospice Christmas Cards & Calendars
Admission 50p Children Free

Your contributions to any of these stalls would be very much appreciated. Please bring to The Old Farmhouse, or ring the number below if you would like us to collect. If you are unable to come, but would like to make a donation to St Richard's Hospice, or for further information, please contact **Alex and John Dodge 881487**

All proceeds go to St Richard's Hospice



OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS and other cards can be left at Ashton Post Office 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. We are assured they don't have time to read the cards!



Ashton Celebration of Christmas

**Wednesday 17 December
at 7.00pm**

You are warmly welcome to join us at this year's **Ashton Celebration of Christmas** in St Barbara's Church, which will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Ashton First School, the Ashton Singers and JamDram will be taking part. There is still time to get involved, so if you would like to contribute to this traditional celebration of the Christmas story in words and music please contact either **Malcolm Nelson 881778** or **John Dodge 881487**. There will be a collection for a children's charity.

New Police Telephone Number

West Mercia Constabulary has launched a new non-emergency telephone number that is cheaper and easy to remember: **0300 333 3000**. The new number replaces 08457 444888, although this will still be available.

Can you help us?

Bredon Hill Middle School is looking for caring adults who could spare just one or two hours a week to hear children read.



Please contact **Mrs Stedman 881426** at BHMS for more details. Thank you so much in advance for your help - it is really appreciated.



Follow the Journey to Bethlehem this Christmas at St Barbara's Church

Sunday 7 December

Christingle Service 3.30 pm



Wednesday 17 December

Ashton Celebration of Christmas 7.00pm



Sunday 21 December

Family Service with a Nativity Theme 9.30am



Wednesday 24 December

Christmas Eve Crib Service 3.30pm

"Midnight" Holy Communion 11.30pm



Thursday 25 December

Christmas Day Family Service

of Christmas Praise 10.00am



*All are warmly welcome at these
Christmas services*

The 'Posada' is a travelling Nativity which goes from house to house in Ashton during Advent. Would your family like to take part and receive the Nativity into your home this Christmas? If so, please call **Ali Stephenson 882052** or **Alex Dodge 881487**.

Footpath News

The condition of footpaths and bridleways in our parish continues to improve but there are still some paths which are difficult to identify or to walk, especially where they cross cultivated fields. The recent increase in management of land for shooting has made this more problematical for walkers who stray off the footpath and thereby risk a dispute with a game-keeper. Now that most of our gates and stiles are in good condition, some of our work parties will be devoted to improving signs, adding new way-mark posts and improving tracks where we can. This will help but it is still important for walkers to know with certainty when they are on a right of way.



When out on a long walk, there is no substitute for taking an Ordnance Survey map but I am happy explain the local paths to anyone who calls at Hollymount where I keep a large-scale map. Alternatively, Worcestershire County Council maintains a map on its website for all parishes in the county. You can find the map and a limited amount of information about footpath use, including my own role, at www.worcestershire.whub.org.uk by following the links to Leisure and Public Rights of Way.

For more detailed information about the rights and responsibilities of walkers and landowners, the Ramblers Association website is an excellent resource and has advice notes on just about everything, including shooting, at www.ramblers.org.uk. I am happy to speak to anyone who experiences a problem with use of our footpaths or spots a need for maintenance which our capable and enthusiastic volunteer team can tackle. *Joe Aspey, Parish Paths Warden*

Editor Wanted!

Ashton News will be ten years old in January 2009. Details of Ashton Millennium projects featured prominently in that first issue in 1999 and 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 **Ashton News** in the past 10 years. The editor, Malcolm Nelson, would now like 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 Microsoft Publisher and willing to compile/design 5 or 6 issues a year please get in touch with him on malcolm-nelson@lineone.net or by telephone on **881778**. Perhaps you could be the one to take **Ashton News** forward into the next 10 years!



The New Beckford Group Minibus Has Arrived!

Julian Alington writes: "Despite some last minute problems in transferring funds, the brand new Renault Minivan arrived at the Ashton Playing Fields for a brief handover ceremony lead by the Vicar in front of 50 supporters, press and fundraisers on Friday 24 October.

"Members of the fund-raising team - Julian Alington, Mike Sanger-Davies, Martin Cooley, Jean Tasker, and Ray Satchell are grateful to the many people in all the villages of the Parish who made donations or helped organise fund raising activities. We are particularly grateful to the Parish Councils, Wychavon District Council and the Eveson Charitable Trust for their contributions.

"We have raised all but £1,200 of the £21,430 needed to buy the minibus and are looking for help to clear this last hurdle. The main reason for the overspend was the late decision to fit a retractable step below the side door of the new minibus. All contributions however large or small will be welcome and are eligible for Gift Aid."

Don't forget that the minibus is available to anyone over the age of 25 in the Parish with a clean driving licence. We only ask for a contribution to cover the cost of fuel and insurance. Details of regular shopping trips are advertised in the Beckford Group Parish Magazine. Enquiries for other uses should be directed to **Ray Satchell 881441** or **Gilbert Watkins 881455**.

Pilates

Classes continue every **Tuesday** from **1045 to 1145** in Ashton Village Hall. If you're interested and would like to know more, please telephone **Julie Farr 710868**. Beginners welcome.



Thank You! Firstly, on behalf of the Fete Organising Committee, I would like to thank everyone who donated bric a brac for our sale on Saturday 1 November in Ashton Village Hall.

Secondly may I thank everybody who was good enough to come and make a purchase to help us raise £400 from the day. Last, but not by any means least, thank you to everyone who helped collect, sort, store, price, and sell the goods, those that ran the Tombola, made the tea, made the cake for the 'guess the weight of the cake' competition (5lb 9 oz and won by Doreen Brett who guessed 5lb 8 ¹/₂ oz).



Together with the Produce Show and Barn Dance we were able to make a net contribution to the village funds after the disappointment of having to cancel our Fete this year. Thank you all for your support, it really was very much appreciated.

Tony Lewis

Do You Use Stoke Orchard Recycling Centre?

John Kenrick writes: "On Sunday 26th October I went to the Stoke Orchard tip in my Land Rover. I was greeted by an official who handed me a leaflet saying that it was now necessary to book an appointment in order to deposit waste at any Gloucestershire County Council Household Recycling Centre... *if you are in a van, pickup, or have a trailer.* Appointments must be booked 24hrs in advance on 0845 602 9344, Monday to Friday, lines open 0900-1700.

"I know that Wychavon at Hill and Moor have introduced some sort of licence system and I accept that keeping trade waste out of household centres is probably correct, however I don't know how much publicity this has had locally and I am sure there are many trailer owners in Ashton who use the facility at Stoke Orchard." There's more information, including a useful information leaflet at: www.recycleforgloucestershire.com

Swingers in Suspenders!

25 January 2009
Ashton Village Hall



In our next *Shindig* event, Jo King and Alexi Harden bring to life songs from the 1930s, 40s and 50s. A cabaret evening of fun and glamour not to be missed. Just £7 for a brilliant evening's entertainment. More details in the next edition of Ashton News but please put the date in your diary

Shindig now!
live arts on your doorstep

Penny Scotland

A Plea to Skateboarders

Ashton News has been asked to publish a plea concerning the low wall outside Ashton First School. It seems that skateboarders are using it as a ramp and as a result the wall is being damaged. Already the coping stones along the top of the wall are broken and eroded; not only does this look unattractive, but the sharp edges are a danger to pupils and passers-by. It is also extremely expensive to replace these stones. The School asks: "*Please would skateboarders leave the wall alone? Also, if members of the public are passing and see anyone using the front of school in an inappropriate way, please contact the police. Thank you!*"



A spokesperson for Ashton Community Centre said: "*We shall have to get together with the school and work out a way to make it impossible to use as the wall as ramp. Unfortunately we don't have an alternative site to offer skateboarders. We have looked into it but have no land available for a suitable skateboard area.*"



Ashton Open Gardens 2009

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June

Will you be running a Young Enterprise business in 2009?

The organisers of Ashton Open Gardens are keen to offer their support for another **Young Enterprise** or similar initiative in next June's event. Space for one stall will be available outside the Village Hall and any young people interested in taking up this offer are invited to contact **Julian Alington 882060**.



... In With the New at St Barbara's Church

We bid a warm welcome to the new team of clergy who have now taken over responsibility for worship and pastoral care in the Beckford Group Parish. They are:

Revd. Matthew Baynes ~ Priest in Charge (designate) of the Beckford Group Parish, together with Associate Priests (designate) ~ **Revd. Terry Henderson** who will have special pastoral responsibility for Ashton under Hill and **Revd. Susan Renshaw**; also **Revd. Clive Parr**, part-time Non-Stipendiary Minister. Their details can be found in the Parish Magazine or on St Barbara's Church Noticeboard.

This is part of a wider grouping of parishes around Bredon Hill in response to a national reduction both in the numbers of ordained clergy available and in finances. We look forward to the new challenges and opportunities this will present. All Ashton residents are warmly invited to come along to services at St Barbara's and get to know the new faces. There will be some familiar ones around too, in the shape of Dennis Oxley and John Dodge.

There will be a new Parish Office in the New Year; in the meantime, if you wish to speak to a member of the clergy, please telephone **Terry Henderson** on **01386 710394** as a first port of call for any Ashton resident, or Matthew Baynes on **01684 772237**.

The 10th Anniversary edition of Ashton News will be published in January 2009.

If there's something you'd like to include please let us have details by Friday 9 January.

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The Ashton News team wishes you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year