

# Ashton News



**Fiesta time**

Cuban stars  
and Latin strings

- back page



November/December 2009

Keep in touch with the best of village life

## Overhead lines start to go

Electricity poles and overhead power lines in Ashton are likely to start coming down before Christmas, fulfilling a wish expressed by villagers nearly five years ago.

During consultations for the village plan, residents said they would like to see the removal of unsightly overhead lines.

At the time, any action seemed unlikely, but then Ofgen, the industry regulator, ordered power companies to spend some of what were seen as excessive profits on community schemes.

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty backed Ashton's plea to have the power lines removed, and Eon agreed to fund the £250k project.

The venture has involved up to 15 workers laying 750m of high voltage cable, and another 2km of low voltage cable running first to homes along The Groaten and part of Elmley Road from the first school to beyond Bakers Lane.

An Eon spokesman said he hoped the first poles would start coming down before Christmas, with others following soon in the new year.

The north end of the village will



**Snowtime:** A path through local woodland captured by Russ Cook, one of Ashton's many fine amateur photographers.

have to wait until the summer of 2010 to avoid disruption to middle school traffic.

To minimise power cuts, some work will be done by a specially trained "hot glove" team, while 33,000 volts is running through the system. Other remarkable features of the project have been the

use of a "narrow trenching machine to minimise disturbance, and a horizontal drill that allowed the laying of a high voltage cable under the playing fields without disturbing a blade of grass.

David Hancock, who has championed the project on behalf of the

*Continued on page 2*

### Ole! Star hosts Spanish night

The next themed evening in the popular series at The Star will be on Thursday 26 November, with nine courses being served for £17 a head.

Details of the Christmas party have not yet been



finalised, so watch the billboard outside the pub for details.

Chef Mike joined the pub eight weeks ago, and with Sunday lunches regularly sold out, customers are urged to book in advance at 881325.

### Police act on village concerns

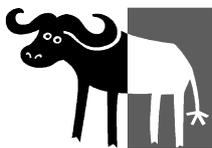
Police are to continue to monitor motorists' speed through Ashton after the issue was raised again at a drop-in consultation in the village on Tuesday 3 November.

The matter had been raised before, following which tests conducted over the past year

showed average speeds of 23, 24 and 26 mph.

Previous consultations had also highlighted the fear of crime following burglaries. Partly in response to this, a crime awareness day will be held at Beckford Village Hall from 12 to 4pm on Thursday 19 November.

## Harvest goes well after difficult years



**Farm life**  
by Charles Archer

After the brilliant weather, and the best autumn for several years, all the crops were harvested without the problems that we have experienced over the past three summers.

Hay and silage making continued into late September and many hedges and ditches have been cleaned out before autumn planting.

The main crop that has been sown and is now coming through the ground in and around Ashton is winter wheat.

Some fields have just been sown with winter beans. The frenetic time is now over in respect of field work, and the only operations that will be carried out between now and the spring will be spray-applied weed control.

## Ideas wanted for playing field

Ashton community centre are looking for your ideas on how to improve the playing fields.

They have some funds available from proceeds of the Open Gardens event, and would like to provide something for older children.

There is not much space available, and equipment is seriously expensive so they want to be sure they are doing what local people want and will appreciate.

At a recent community centre open morning, they sought the views of some

villagers, including young footballers, whose preference was for a multi-use wall, something to climb on, or a basket-type swing.

Adults opted for better and more bins, seating, planting for shade and more organised parking.

Have you any views? Look on the website for illustrations of some of the possibilities, then email the site, or contact a member of the committee, Tony Lewis 881555, Jo Brown 881860, or Wendy Shirra 881375, with your views and suggestions.

## Electricity lines to go

*From page one*

village, said he was very pleased by what Eon had done so far.

"The reinstatement has been done very well," he said. "The grass verges have almost completely grown back, the pavements and roads where they have cut into the tarmac have been replaced in as good a condition as beforehand."

Electricity poles can be identified by parallel cables running to the top. The project does not affect BT's overhead telephone lines, although ironically BT's

## Now BT urged to get rid of overhead wires

main cable is already underground. Cables from the main line are taken up the side of each pole, then wires radiate out from the top to individual homes.

Spokespersons for Openreach, the BT division which looks after local networks, said it had no plans to put its apparatus underground, but they would look further into the situation and the possible cost.

## Your letters

### Dog owners urged to control the furtive poopers

While welcoming the comments of the parish council (*Ashton News*, September), I would like to draw attention to the irresponsible owners who let their dogs loose at night or first thing in the morning.

As a non dog owner, I am particularly miffed at having to clean up mess off my garden or lawn, which I have to do quite regularly.

The responsibility of owning a dog extends to 24 hours. Owners should not take the easy option of letting their dogs roam at times when they hope they can't be seen.

A reminder of the penalties might not come amiss!

(The law provides for a £50 fixed penalty or a maximum fine of £1,000 — editor.)

P J Barnett,  
19, Elmley Road.

## My thanks to News helpers

by Malcolm Nelson

I'd like to say a very sincere 'thank you' for all the warm good wishes I have received on stepping down from the editorship of Ashton News.

I have special thanks, of course, to everyone who contributed to the gift token which was presented to me at our lunchtime gathering on 18 October. It was as generous as it was unexpected!

As Colin Davison takes over the editor's role, our highly-regarded village newsletter will complete its eleventh year of publication. My thanks also go to all the

other volunteer members of the Ashton News team: from Penny and John Scotland who arrange for its printing, collation and distribution, to all those who faithfully deliver each issue to every home in the village.

- This issue of *Ashton News* has been published early, due to printing needs. A full report of parish council matters, including proposals for a village sign will appear in the first issue of 2010. Contributions should be sent to Colin Davison, 1 Bakers Lane, tel 882364, or by email to colin.davison@hotmail.co.uk

# Crib scene will help tell Christmas story

## St Barbara's Christmas services

Sunday 6 December, 3.30pm  
Christingle service, the Posada starts its journey



Wednesday 16 December, 6.30pm  
Ashton Celebration of Christmas



Sunday 20 December, 10am  
Family service with a Nativity theme



Thursday 24 December, 3.30pm  
Christmas Eve Crib Service, the Posada returns



Friday 25 December, 9.30am  
Christmas Day Family Communion

Christmas celebrations at St Barbara's Church start at 3.30pm on Sunday 6 December with the Christingle Service.



That will also mark the beginning of the tour of the Posada, a small crib representing the Nativity scene, which families can borrow during Advent to help tell the Christmas story to children.

Those wishing to receive the Posada should call organiser Alex Dodge on **881487**.

Ashton First School and the Ashton Singers will take part in a Celebration of Christmas at the church at 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 December. There will be a col-

lection for the CATCH project to help vulnerable adults and children in Mzamomhle, South Africa. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available after the service.

If you wish to contribute to the 16 December celebration of the Christmas story in words and music, contact Malcolm Nelson **881778**, or John Dodge **881487**.

Christmas services continue with a Nativity theme at 10am on Sunday 20 December, a crib service at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve, when the Posada returns to St. Barbara's and Holy Communion at 9.30am on Christmas Day.

### You can help to keep our lovely churchyard looking its best



Please come on **Saturday 28 November** between 9.30am and 12.00 noon to help keep your village churchyard looking neat and tidy.

It would help if you could bring your own tools, but refreshments will be provided.

Apart from grass and hedge cutting, and some tree maintenance, the upkeep of St Barbara's churchyard depends entirely volunteers.

If you can spare an hour or two, Alex Dodge 881487, Malcolm Nelson 881778 and Jean Tasker 881270 would greatly appreciate your help.

## We'll meet again at café

There'll be blue birds over the white cliffs of Dover, and over Ashton too this **Friday 13 November** thanks to first school pupils.

Year 5 pupils are holding a street party café from 1.45pm in the school hall to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

As part of their studies on World War 2, service veteran Ted Edwards talked to them about his RAF career and the work of the Legion.

Pupils will lead the singing of songs from the era, and have assembled a book of wartime recipes, that will be for sale alongside cakes

### this week

and biscuits.

Local visitors can see a display of memorabilia and join the café.

The school will also welcome gifts of cakes and raffle prizes from supporters unable to attend.

### Chapel services

Ashton Free Church will hold a Carol service at 6pm on Sunday 20 December, and a service of family worship at 9.30am on Christmas morning. All are welcome.

## Cash aids Action Against Hunger

Organisers have thanked all who supported the Harvest Festival in St Barbara's on 4 October, especially the First School pupils, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. The church was full, and the generous harvest gifts were distributed by the Guides to elderly residents in Ashton after the service. The collection for Action Against Hunger was £212, of which over £60 was gift-aided, adding another £17 in value.

### Buy your cards and diaries here and support the hospice

### this week

A coffee morning in aid of St. Richard's Hospice will be held at The Old Farmhouse, Elmley Road, from 10am to noon on **Saturday 14 November**.

Christmas cards, calendars and diaries, cakes, preserves and gifts will be on sale alongside delicious refreshments.

If you wish to contribute to any of the stalls, bring items to the house during the week, or consumables on the Friday.

Admission costs £2 (children free) including seasonal refreshment, with all proceeds going to St Richard's Hospice.

If you cannot attend, but wish to make a donation, or want further information, call Alex or John Dodge on 881487.



Cuban

## International stars of Womad set to delight Latin lovers

Ashton will host one of the biggest acts ever to appear at a *Shindig* event when Cuban band *Aseré* perform at the Village Hall on Sunday 29 November.

The career of the seven musicians took off during a visit to the Cuba of



**8pm Sunday 29 November, Village Hall**

**Tickets: £8, children £5, 881594**

their forefathers where they recorded their debut album in Havana.

More recently they have earned rave reviews for appearances at the Glastonbury and Womad festivals, and have toured extensively in the UK and abroad.

Their mixture of traditional Cuban rhythms and contemporary salsa styles will have you dancing in your seats, if not on the floor.

Seating is cabaret-style, so bring your own food and drink for a great night's entertainment. Snacks are provided.

Get your tickets, £8 for adults, £5 for schoolchildren, from Penny Scotland, on 881594.

## You are about to be tango-ed

**Santiago String Quartet**

**8pm Saturday 21 November**

**St. Barbara's**

**Tickets: £10 on door, students free**



Ashton-trained violinist Matthew Elston brings the *Santiago String Quartet* to St. Barbara's on Saturday 21 November for an exhilarating concert featuring South American and Spanish works.



Classical

The group was formed last year to promote Latin music, and their programme will include pieces by tangoing Astor Piazzolla, Javier Alvarez and Javier Montiel, as well as Haydn's 'Sunrise' Quartet and three delightful pieces by Mendelssohn.

Matthew, a former pupil of Jean Alington, has played for Parish Music many times. He is a member of the English Chamber Orchestra. Other quartet

members are Emma Blanco violin, Suzanne Evans, viola, and Jonathan Hennessy-Brown, cello.

New-Yorker Suzanne and Jonathan first founded a quartet in Mexico, where they discovered exciting contemporary Latin works then little known in the UK. More recently, the music of South American composers has been massively popularised through performers like the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra under Gustavo Dudamel.

Now in its 15th season, Parish Music provides classical concerts in the Beckford Group churches, where audiences can enjoy a glass of wine or fruit juice later with the performers.

## Ashton's Got Talent

Can you sing, dance, juggle or entertain? Do you play a musical instrument in a group or on your own? Can you tell jokes or read a poem and make it come alive?

If so, there's still just enough time to enter Ashton's Got Talent, the village's answer to the X-Factor.

For the benefit of *Ashton News* readers, the closing date for entries has been extended to this **Saturday, 14 November**.

Tickets and application forms are available at the Post Office or at the village website, [www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk](http://www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk).



**7.30pm Saturday 21 November Village Hall**

**Tickets: £8 single, £20 family (2 adults and 2 children)**

Then join the audience on Saturday 21 November for an evening showcasing the best talent from Ashton and beyond in aid of the BBC charity, Children in Need.

Tickets include food. A bar and raffle are available on the night.

## this week Come racing

**8pm Saturday 14 November**

**Village Hall**

**Tickets £4 at 881656 or on door**

The cricket club is holding a video horse-racing night this Saturday evening, 14 November, with the first race at 8pm.

Racecards are available in advance from Doreen Cope on 881656, and include a ploughman's supper, and should also be available on the door at the village hall.

The event is for club funds, but everyone is welcome.