



Ashton News

The Last Waltz

Friday 31 October
Ashton Village Hall at 8pm



The popular *Quondam Theatre Company* returns this autumn with its production of *The Last Waltz* by Fine Time Fontayne, appearing in Ashton as part of the County's Rural and Community Touring Scheme, *Shindig*. The scheme brings live professional arts to village halls and other venues, hosted by local promoters.

The Last Waltz is a poignant comedy with music, and a love story about the very last working day in a rural railway signal box. This is 2008 and Philip is the signalman about to be made redundant. But out of this sad moment comes real happiness when he rediscovers, after 20 years, his long lost teenage love, the love of his life. His defiance rings out over the hills: "They can take my signal box, but they can't take my soul".



With *The Last Waltz* Quondam continues to develop its highly successful brand, **THEATREWITHMUSIC**, a performance style which combines the drama of story telling with the entertainment of music and song, and all the music is played live! Suitable for adults and children age 9 and above. Tickets price £7 - please call **881594**.



Harvest Festival at St Barbara's Church Sunday 21 September at 9.30 am

Please join us for a Family Service to celebrate the rich abundance of harvest. The Church will be traditionally decorated with flowers and produce, which will later be distributed to elderly people in the parish.

We will be making a collection for the small charity we supported in 2006: Action Against Hunger. You can be certain that all money donated actually goes to where it is needed.

We would be really grateful to receive gifts of fruit, vegetables and other seasonal produce to help make this a truly festive occasion. You may deliver gifts to the church on Saturday 20 September between 10 am and 12 noon. If this is not convenient, please contact one of the Churchwardens to arrange an alternative time:



Alastair Humphrey 881479 or Olive Malcolm 881874.

Autumn Supper



Saturday 25 October in the Village Hall, followed by entertainment from the Pershore Community Choir. It should be a fun evening and a time to meet up with friends. All the proceeds to the village mini bus appeal. Please look out for further details; and keep the date free! **881594**



Parish Music

Now in its 14th year, Parish Music provides concerts of classical music in the five country churches of Alstone, Ashton under Hill, Beckford, Overbury and Teddington. All concerts are on Saturday evenings at 8pm, and conclude with an opportunity to meet the performers and enjoy a drink of wine or fruit juice. To cover our costs we have had to increase the admission charge this year to £10 (students and children still free).

Saturday 27 September Alstone 8pm
Music of Pubs and Palaces Broadway-based trio *Musica Leonarda* plays a lively selection of music from the taverns, concert rooms and wealthy homes of 17C and 18C Europe. The players bring together folk or 'pub' music (Carolan), the music of the court or 'palace' (Marais, Rameau, Chambonnières, Couperin), and the music of composers who moved between these two worlds and influenced them both (Corelli, Geminiani).

Saturday 18 October Beckford 8pm
The *Classic Trombone Quartet* exploits the acoustics of the lofty nave of Beckford church with an exciting programme of music ancient and modern. The quartet will play a wide variety of music from the 16th to the 20th century: arrangements of vocal music by Morales, Bach and Bruckner, canzonas for brass by Guami and Scheidt, original pieces for trombone quartet by Flor Peeters, Gareth Wood and Kazimierz Serocki, and American popular music by George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Hoagy Carmichael.

Further details of all concerts from **881479** or: www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk/organisations/music

Mikron Theatre in Ashton



As always, this multi-talented group gave us a superb performance when they brought one of their latest productions *Fair Trade* to Ashton Village Hall on Friday 7 August. The audience was noticeably less than it

has been on previous occasions, but lacked nothing when it came to enthusiasm, and a great night out was enjoyed by all of us who were there. A surplus of £145 has gone towards village funds.

Mikron has made an annual visit to Ashton for several years now, and it may be that the numbers this year are an indication of this coming to a natural end. A good third of the audience came from outside the village, from as far afield as Birmingham. The majority of these visitors were devotees of Mikron, and had seen them perform at Ashton before. They came again because they had enjoyed the venue so much. It is also true to say that the Mikron performers have always appreciated the warm welcome and relaxed atmosphere in Ashton and would be keen to continue their association with us.

So, there is a lot of food for thought and I would welcome any feedback you might have about Mikron in Ashton.

Izaak Jackson

Dog Fouling

Ashton News has once again been asked to remind dog owners to be considerate in the disposal of their pet's waste throughout the village, especially on the raised section of footpath at the bottom of Cottons Lane, which is used by children as well as adults.

Please remember it is an offence for a dog owner not to clean up after their dog on roads, footpaths, playgrounds and other areas open to the public. Owners who do not do so can be prosecuted and fined up to £1000. It is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions.



Minibus Appeal Update

We are almost there! With the help of one or two more fund-raising activities we are now assured of sufficient funds to enable us to place an order for a new minibus for delivery in the next few weeks. We will arrange a formal handing over of the keys of the new bus when it arrives with the opportunity to thank the many donors, large and small. Any private donations, which are eligible for Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer, would still be very welcome, please contact **Julian Alington 882060** or **Mike Sanger-Davies 881910**.

St Barbara's Church News

Can you help please? St Barbara's Church Committee would like to investigate the feasibility of putting a supply of clean water in the church, and perhaps a much-needed lavatory, with appropriate drainage.



Do you have any expertise in these areas, perhaps as a surveyor, architect, plumber or drainage expert? Would you be willing to give us a little of your time to advise us on how best to proceed with this project? What are the practicalities, the regulations and the requirements? We would be really grateful for any help and advice you could give us. Please contact one of the Churchwardens: **Alastair Humphrey 881479** or **Olive Malcolm 881874**.

Farewell Our vicar, Rev Jan Moore, will be leaving the Parish at the end of October and her farewell Sunday will be 2 November, with special services in Overbury at 10.00am and Beckford at 5.00pm. Please come and join us to say our goodbyes to Jan.

Beware 'phishing' emails! If you receive an email purporting to be from your bank or credit card company, asking you to follow a link to a website and enter your account details, **never, ever respond**, no matter how convincing the email or the website seems to be. This type of email is on the increase and they are very sophisticated, but they are designed by criminals to capture your bank details to make fraudulent purchases. Don't even forward them to someone, just delete them immediately. If you are in any doubt, contact your bank and talk to them. **Roger Umpelby 881449**

The next regular edition of Ashton News will be published in November 2008.

If there's something you'd like to include please let us have details by Friday 31 October.

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