

Your Community Centre - Did You Know...?

- The aim of the Ashton under Hill Community Centre (which is a registered charity) is to promote social and sporting activities within the community of Ashton.
- The Cricket Pitch, Football Pitch, Playground Area, Tennis Courts, Green Room and the Hall itself (which is shared with Ashton First School) are owned by the Ashton Parish Council, who granted a 99-year lease from 1949 to the Trustees of Ashton under Hill Village Hall and Recreation Ground, now known as The Community Centre.
- The income of the Community Centre is derived from letting the Hall to village groups and occasional private functions, and also the Green Room to the Playgroup. Rent is also received from the Football Team, Cricket Team and Tennis Club for the use of the pitches and courts. An annual donation is received from the Parish Council and in recent years donations have also been received from Ashton Open Gardens.
- The Committee arranges Shindig events in the Village Hall and in recent years a Harvest Supper, Michaelmas Supper, a Saint David's Supper, and a New Year's Day Football Match. This summer, the Centre has also arranged Ashton Frolix (Summer activity days) for 7-13 year olds on four consecutive Wednesdays. The bi-annual Fete is also run by the Committee.
- A large portion of the Community Centre's income goes on the upkeep of the football pitch and surrounding area, the playground area, cleaning the Village Hall and also over £1000 a year for insurance.
- In recent years we have been able to contribute (with grants where available) to such projects as: Village Hall fire doors, alterations to heating pipework in the Hall, surfacing the outside area and providing play equipment for the Playgroup, Hall decoration (shared with the School), improving drainage of the outfield of the Cricket Ground, the Minibus Appeal, bollards at the play area to prevent vehicles driving on it, kitchen refurbishment at the cricket pavilion and spraying the football pitch.
- Current Community Centre Committee Members include: Chairman, Tony Lewis 881555, Secretary Penny Scotland 881594 and Treasurer Brian Stephens 881467. They would be pleased to hear from you with any help or suggestions about running events or projects, or if you would be interested in joining the Committee.



An Invitation from St Barbara's Church...Come As You Are!

Is it a while since you were in church? Would you like to come and see what it's all about?

Please come to Back to Church Sunday and join in an informal, friendly service on Sunday 20 September at 10.00 am. This is happening in churches of all denominations throughout the United Kingdom, so people all over the country will be doing the same. From small beginnings five years ago, over 37,000 people joined in on Back to Church Sunday in September last year. Why not invite a family member, friend or neighbour to come along too? No strings attached!



You are assured of a warm welcome

St Barbara's will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 4 October at 10.00 am. Please come and join in a family service of Praise and Thanksgiving for the Harvest. All are warmly invited, and children (of all ages!) are especially welcome. Contributions of harvest gifts will be distributed to elderly residents in the village after the service. There will be a collection for the charity Action Against Hunger, which helps people in third world countries to grow their own food.



Please stay for refreshments after both of these services



Ashton under Hill Open Gardens

www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk



Record Numbers in 2009

Over 1500 visitors came to Ashton under Hill for the 32nd Open Gardens weekend in June of this year, enjoying some gloriously sunny weather. This was the largest number in the recent history of this popular annual event and, after deduction of costs, a record sum of £8800 was shared between St Barbara's Church and Ashton Community Centre.

Support for Ashton First School

In addition this year, a donation of £1000 was given to Ashton under Hill First School to support a project for which they have already been raising funds. This scheme aims to make the school's playground a more exciting and stimulating environment for the children.

Roof Repairs

St Barbara's Church Committee has also put its share of the Ashton Open Gardens donation to good use, tackling repairs to a number of leaks which have appeared in the roof in recent months. The Committee will also be investigating the provision of a water supply and drainage at the church, with a long term view of providing lavatory facilities. In addition, the funds will cover the costs of printing for the current Stewardship campaign, which is aimed at increasing the number of people who are willing to commit to giving regularly to the church's funds.

New Games Area

In 2008 Ashton Community Centre was able to support several projects from the donation they received from Ashton Open Gardens. These included purchasing a marquee for village use, erecting bollards to prevent vehicles driving on to the playground, refurbishing the kitchen in the Cricket Pavilion (also used for the Village Lunch Club) and support for the Parish Minibus Appeal. This year, they are investigating the provision of a Multi Use Sports Facility for the village, which could cost up to £6800. This scheme is aimed at 10-15 year-olds, and the Committee will be seeking villagers' opinions about it soon.

Thanks to All Helpers

Thanks again to everyone who generously gave of their time and effort in making this year's Ashton Open Gardens a resounding success. helping to provide such a variety of benefits for the community.

Planning has already started for next year's event, on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 June 2010. We would be very grateful for contributions from of home-made jams and jellies, pickles and chutneys for Cream Teas and preserve sales in 2010: if you are able to help, please contact Alex Dodge 881487. Thank you.

A date for your diary...

Sunday 29 November - Ashton Village Hall



Asere In Concert

Asere is a stylish seven piece band who will bring the full Cuban experience to the Ashton stage, fusing traditional Cuban sounds with international influences and a kicking Latin vibe. Come along to dance to the rhythms or just listen. Please look out for more details in the next edition of Ashton News.

Shindig events are promoted by Wychavon District Council and Ashton Community Centre.

Parish Music 2009-2010

Parish Music resumes its series of concerts in local country churches for this season on Saturday 10 October with a concert in Beckford, followed by a second concert in Ashton on 21st November. Performances start at 8pm and conclude with an opportunity to meet the performers and enjoy a drink of wine or fruit juice in the church. Full details of concerts in 2010 will be published early in the New Year. Admission £10; students free. For further details and illustrations see our website: www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk/organisations/music or contact Gill and Alastair Humphrey 881479 or Julian Alington 882060



51 Strings

Saturday 10 October 2009 at 8pm in St John's Church Beckford

David Powell, cello, and Katherine Thomas, harp, met through their work with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and together form the 51 Strings. They will present a varied selection of works by Haydn, Albeniz, Vaughan-Williams, Bach, Bruch and Elgar.

We are pleased to welcome David back to Parish Music. He lives in Cheltenham and has played for us twice before as a member of the Montpellier String Trio. David is sub-principal cello with the CBSO and regularly features in the orchestra's own chamber music series. He teaches at the University of Nottingham and is a trustee for the Cotswold Suzuki Violin Group. Katherine is in great demand as an orchestral player and soloist throughout the UK. She has won many competitions, including the Blue Riband at the National Eisteddfod and first prize at the World Harp Festival (Cardiff 1992). She studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and went on to perform at home and abroad as a soloist and with orchestras such as the CBSO, LSO, and the Gothenburg Opera. Now back home in Wales, Katherine is a regular player in the orchestra of Welsh National Opera. She is also principal harp with the Orchestra of the Swan.

The Santiago String Quartet

Saturday 21 November 2009 8pm in St Barbara's Church Ashton under Hill

The Santiago String Quartet was formed at the start of 2008 with the goal of promoting Latin music in the UK and abroad. Their concert for us consists of music by Astor Piazzolla, Javier Alvarez and Javier Montiel, as well as Haydn's 'Sunrise' Quartet, opus 76, and three movements from Mendelssohn's opus 81.

The Quartet is led by Matthew Elston who has played for Parish Music many times in the past. A former pupil of Jean Alington, Matthew is now a full time member of the English Chamber Orchestra. The other members of the Quartet are Emma Blanco, violin, Suzanne Evans, viola, and Jonathan Hennessy-Brown, cello, all experienced chamber and orchestral players. Suzanne and Jonathan were founder members of Cuarteto Genesis in Yucatan, Mexico, where they discovered a repertoire of exciting contemporary Latin music rarely performed in the UK.

Further PARISH MUSIC concerts planned for 2010

Saturday 20 March: An illustrated talk by Anthony Boden on 'Ivor Gurney: Composer and Poet of the Severn and Somme' - in Alstone.

Saturday 10 April: The Corelli Ensemble will perform 'Haydn at Home' - in Teddington.

Saturday 15th May: The Glevum Consort will sing 'Renaissance Masterpieces' from Spain and Italy - in Overbury.

Funds for St Richard's and St Barbara's

We would like to thank everyone who supported the impromptu garden opening at The Old Farmhouse on Saturday 8 August, occasioned by the postponement of the Gardening Club's Summer Tea because of rain – never far away this summer. Nearly forty people came and enjoyed tea and cakes in the garden and raised £170 for St Richard's Hospice.

The Parish Walk End of Season Supper on 17 August raised £260, which has been shared equally between St Richard's Hospice and St Barbara's Church. The contribution to St Barbara's will go towards the cost of recent repairs to the roof, hopefully keeping the rain out this summer and next winter!

As you may know, St Richard's needs £4 million a year to provide its invaluable service to the community. Marilyn Peachey, St Richard's Director of Fundraising wrote "The entire St Richard's story is about people helping people and you are part of that story. This donation is greatly appreciated and your contribution and continued support really does make a difference in helping to give someone a better quality of life at a time when they need it most."

So thank you very much to all those whose donations have made this work possible.

Alex and John Dodge

New Editor for Ashton News

After almost 11 years and 60 editions, Malcolm Nelson is stepping down as the editor of our village newsletter, and Colin Davison has volunteered to take over from the November/December edition. Colin has substantial newspaper experience and so Ashton News is clearly in safe hands! Your volunteer distribution team, headed by Penny Scotland, remains unchanged.

When asked, Malcolm assured us that his departure is not linked in any way to a vacancy for a breakfast show host on BBC Radio 2...!

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

If there's something you'd like to include please let us have details by Friday 6 November.

Ashton Football Club

Another football season began on Sunday 6 September, and we are hoping to improve on last year's 4th place in Division 3 of the Evesham Sunday League.



Forthcoming fixtures:

20 September: WMK FC (home)

27 September: Wickhamford Sports (home)

All villagers are most welcome to come down to the Playing Fields and cheer on your village football team!!

Nick Organ

Ashton's Got Talent....!

Watch out for an extreme extravaganza of excessively exuberant entertainment in November, in aid of BBC Children in Need. All acts will be welcome for Ashton's own talent show. More details soon...!

Parish Council News

It has come to the attention of the Parish Council that dog mess is still a problem in the village despite dog waste bins being available. It is particularly unpleasant for the person who mows and strims the grass. Please would dog owners clean up after their pets.

BT is to discontinue the service to our public telephone box in Ashton, because of minimal usage. However, the Parish Council is to adopt the red phone box for £1 in order to keep it as an important landmark in Elmley Road.

At the Parish Council meeting on 8 September, a proposal that Ashton should have a decorative village sign was discussed. This would be situated at the junction of The Groaten/Elmley Road/Beckford Road and members of the Council would like to hear resident's views. (Contact Simon Hague, Ray Satchell, Gerry Barnett, Doreen Cope, Jeff Fletcher, Anthony Sanger-Davies or Ted Williams).

An example of the sort of sign proposed can be seen on the green in the centre of the village of Fladbury or on the website: www.villagesignsociety.org.uk

Ashton News Contacts

Colin Davison

1 Bakers Lane

882364

colin.davison@hotmail.co.uk

John Scotland

The Yarde

Elmley Road, 881594

JPScotland@home.gb.com