



Ashton News

Keep in touch with village life at www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk and on www.facebook.com/AshtonunderHillParishCouncil

Dear readers

What a six months we have had! Hopefully everyone has stayed well and are getting to grips with the 'new normal'. We have all missed our well loved events; Open Gardens, Run around Supper, Cricket Club Night and more. However, we did enjoy a magical VE Day (see P2). Bill Shead, long time resident and WW2 Veteran, joined us for the celebrations. Sadly Bill died recently. His daughter in law, Carmen Shead, has written a lovely obituary on P10.

The volunteer and prescription team have done, and continue to do, an amazing job of looking out for our senior or more vulnerable residents. Prescriptions are still being collected and delivered several times a week and they are all happy to continue in their roles until no longer needed. The team have knocked on doors to check people were alright, they delivered Covid information (and this newsletter!) during the early days of lockdown; have hung bunting and other acts of kindness. We think they deserve a mention by name, see P7. Sure you will join me in giving them a **Big Thank You. The Ed**

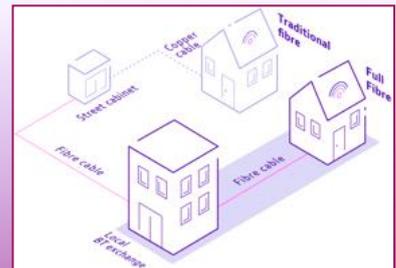
Improving village broadband

As a PC we are committed to trying to improve our village for everyone. Working from home over the past months has shown that our broadband speeds and bandwidths are not sufficient for all our needs, especially when there is extra pressure with schooling, working from home and personal use, e.g. streaming, teenage gaming etc. We have therefore been investigating the opportunity of getting **FTTP (Fibre To The Premises)** with help from government funding.

As a resident or business owner (if your home is your registered business address) there is no cost beyond signing to any given supplier for usually 12/18 months. Other questions can be answered by using the web page below.

We will be setting up a web pledging page asking people to commit to this project for us to enable work to start with OpenReach in the next few weeks. Without your pledges, OpenReach can not access government funding and we can't install FTTP.

Any other questions contact me at CllrMcIntyreAUH@outlook.com. Please look out for an announcement about the pledge site on facebook, the website or by email. Cllr Nikki McIntyre



Telephone box update

After what seems a very long wait, the telephone box is nearly ready for action as a book exchange and information hub. We were very lucky to find a master carpenter and joiner who comes from Syria. Samer and his family are one of two families who have been relocated in Evesham through the government led Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. The local charity Evesham Vale Welcomes Refugees have welcomed the families and offer support in many ways.



Like many charities, they are in need of volunteers to offer friendship and support to these families, perhaps via their Conversation Café; help with admin and social media and in many other areas. Samer did an extremely good job and he and his two lovely young sons were so friendly and polite. The Ed was so impressed that we asked Samer to do some work for us which we are really pleased with. Samer is happy to take on more work. You can contact him via the charity (details below) or Sarah Lane who is a volunteer and who very kindly found us Samer in the first place, thank you very much, Sarah.

Facebook: [Evesham Vale Welcomes Refugees](https://www.facebook.com/EveshamValeWelcomesRefugees)
Sarah: scalane1949@gmail.com

Facebook: [Evesham Vale Welcomes Refugees](https://www.facebook.com/EveshamValeWelcomesRefugees)
Sarah: scalane1949@gmail.com

The Ashton Book Exchange

The format will be 'one book in and one out' (or 2/2 etc). This is so that we don't end up with piles of books that are impossible to browse. This has been a problem in some other phone boxes.

We are hoping that one of the village book clubs will become 'librarians'! We will post information on the box regarding this soon, then you will be able to start using the box.



The information board will be mainly for the PC to use for village information; please drop the PC a line if you would like to display something (details on last page).

The magazine rack is for spare copies of village publications or flyers. We might also trial a children's section for games & jigsaws. We hope you enjoy using the box! *Parish Council*

Electronic only newsletter

Owing to Covid restrictions, we have been unable to print this edition of the Ashton News.

However, we will be putting a few paper copies in the telephone box and at the Star. If you have a neighbour who doesn't use the internet, perhaps you could pick up a copy and post through their letterbox? Thank you. *The Ed*

A VE Day to Remember



On a glorious day in May, Ashton came together to celebrate VE Day, 8th May. Despite the serious situation we all found ourselves in, it seemed like the whole village was determined to briefly forget lockdown, enjoy the lovely weather and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Hamish Sanger Davies started the day off with a beautiful rendition of the Last Post on his trumpet.



Union Jack bunting was strung up everywhere, brightly decorated tables laden with afternoon and cream teas, many provided by The Star, were set up in front gardens, verges and even the pub car park! Neighbours chatted to each other across their drives. People wandered around the village, being careful to observe social distancing, greeting people they hadn't seen for nearly two months.



We listened to Vera Lynn, courtesy of David Ward. There were barbecues, impromptu disco dancing and even roller blading!

A major highlight and privilege was seeing Bill Shead, a WWII veteran and long term resident of the village. Bill came up into the centre of the village in his wheelchair and chatted to various people. Sadly, Bill died recently aged an impressive 98 years, but it was lovely that he lived to see the 75th VE anniversary celebrations amongst his friends and neighbours (obituary on P10).



75th Anniversary



The day proved a real tonic for many of us. Special thanks must go to the wonderful volunteer team, who found time to deliver VE flyers and hang bunting in between looking out for their 'patch' and carrying out their prescription duties. **The Ed**



Rails End CL News Summer 2020

The caravan site has been re open since July 4th and we have been at full capacity since then.. As part of the footpath crosses the caravan site we ask that everyone keeps to the marked paths and dogs are kept on leads.

Many of our reviews say what a lovely village we live in and have been very complimentary about the gardens in particular. Several have expressed an interest in coming back when open gardens are on next year.

The Star is also a big hit with most of our visitors visiting or having a takeaway at least once during their stay. The shop has also been well received.

The walks around the locality are always popular and we are blessed to have so many varied routes to try!

All of the village deserves a big pat on the back for your welcome to our visitors, the well kept tidy village that mean several will make a return visit. **Jackie & Andrew**



Ashton under Hill Cricket Club

The 2020 cricket season has, like everything else in our lives, suffered from the impact of Covid-19. We finally started small-scale practice in June and cricket matches were able to take place from mid-July, albeit with a series of important supporting measures to protect the health and safety of everyone taking part.

It became clear soon after lockdown started that we needed to do something to cover income we were going to lose in 2020, firstly to ensure we could meet the usual ongoing running costs of the Club and also allow us to keep planning for a successful future. We decided to set up a Crowdfunder page with a target of raising £4,000. This enabled us to involve all our members and seek the support of the local community in our campaign. The added bonus was that, if we achieved our target, Sport England would give us additional funding of £2,000.

It has been a great success so far. Three weeks into our eight week campaign, we had hit our £4,000 target and secured the commitment of Sport England to pay us their £2,000 at the end of the project. Given this success, we decided to try and press on towards a revised total target of **£8,000**.

The fundraising page is open until September 5th, so if you are able to offer us any support, it would be very much appreciated. As well as the option to donate, you can purchase any one of a series of "rewards" which have been kindly donated. These have included a luxury cream tea for four people, a chance to have your portrait painted and a penguin feeding experience at Birdland, Bourton on the Water.

Many thanks to those who have already supported us. Please visit our Crowdfunder page before September 5th if you would like to help. **David Whitehouse**

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/ashton-under-hill-cc-2020-covid-19-fundraiser>



The Volunteer & Prescriptions team



This brilliant team are still going strong and many of our senior or vulnerable/shielding residents are having their prescriptions collected and delivered to their doors. This is mainly for Bredon Hill Surgery as other surgeries have their own delivery service. If you are still self isolating or are shielding and would like to take advantage of this service, or for anything else, contact us:

Sarah Hewitt, Tel: 01386 881070 or 07770 942144

Karen Rowley, Tel: 01386 882466 or 07976 906653



Join easyfundraising (address below) and you can collect free donations for the village every time you buy something online. It won't cost you a penny extra so please help us to raise funds. You just click on the 'activate donation' button on websites that support easyfundraising and they do the rest!

£707.49 raised so far

In these uncertain times it is even more important to have funds available in the village.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/auhsocial/



Little Big Learners will be opening its doors again in September for Breakfast Clubs (Badsey & Bredon Hancock's) and After School Clubs (Ashton, Badsey, Bredon and Sedgberrow). We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to our sessions and our School Holiday Club will be back in October 2020. Please see our 'How To Book' page on our website to secure a place with us. www.littlebiglearners@gmail.com. **Graham Begley**

Ashton-under-Hill First School Report



This is an update into what has been happening since March. On 20th March we closed the gates at the school as the country went into lockdown. The following Monday we reopened with only two members of staff and a few children whose parents were key workers and could not remain at home. The following week, we became a Hub School, taking in children from Overbury as well as Ashton. The teachers and TAs from both schools came in on a rota basis and organised the learning in school. This was challenging as we had a wide age range but few children. However, they completed projects such as the VE Day one which we shared with you all by putting up pictures on the windows of the Hall and entrance. We also had a VE Day celebration in the school grounds in beautiful sunshine.



Most of the children remained at home with home learning packages being sent out at the start of each week. We had lots of communication with the children and parents if they wanted it and the staff worked very hard to make sure that the children knew that we were all thinking about them by sending messages, videos, and challenges and reading stories. Many of these can still be found on our website. We even made

special parcels with challenges in for every child and hand delivered them so that they had something different to do.



On 1st June we re-opened to selected year groups chosen by the Government and we all had to work in "bubbles" - this meant that the staff and children



in each bubble could not mix with any other group - a tall order for such a sociable staff and for a school where children play together naturally. We were very disappointed not to be able to offer a place in school to every child but our hands were tied as we were not allowed to have over 15 children in any bubble.

The children were able to use the local environment and each day we were thankful for the wonderful surroundings in Ashton. Each bubble took regular walks, the older children went pond dipping with Meg Archer and the Reception children did much of their learning outside and even met Jack from Jack and The Beanstalk and tried to help him to catch the hen he had taken from the giant.



Ashton-under-Hill First School Report cont

We are extremely grateful to everybody who supported us, The Star who gave us fruit for all of the children in school, Bredon Fish and Chip shop who gave all of the staff lunch on the final day of term and to everyone who waved as they passed the school. The school Governors have also worked tirelessly behind the scenes and we would like to thank them for all they did. We look forward to having all of the children back in September and wish our Year 5 pupils well as they start the next stage of their education.

In the midst of all this Mrs Grant and Mrs Gordon left the school, they both worked in the office and may have been the people that you spoke to when you contacted the school. We wish them both well and have welcomed Mrs Brown and Mrs Ward to the team.

If you would like to find out more about a place at the school, please contact the office. We always welcome any help, so if you have any spare time to hear children read or have a skill that we might need please come and talk to us. We really value our links with the local community and we would be delighted to hear from you. **Alison Peacey, Head Teacher**



BECKFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2020 Revised PROGRAMME

Affiliated to the
Royal Horticultural Society

Member of the
Gloucestershire
Federation of Gardening
Societies

EVENING MEETINGS 2020 (Talks and demonstrations)

All held at Beckford Village Hall at
1930hrs

22 Jan

WHAT'S IN STORE

Jim Teague

26 Feb

A PASSION FOR SEED

Rob Cole

25 Mar

THE POWER OF GARDENING

Marc Mollart CANCELLED

22 Apr

TEABAGS, BRAS AND TIGHTS

Darren Rudge CANCELLED

23 Sept

THE UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

Chris Evans CANCELLED

28 Oct

IS MY GARDEN GOOD ENOUGH?

David Morgan CANCELLED

SUMMER GARDEN VISITS

No trips will be organised in 2020.

LOCAL GARDEN VISITS

No visits will be organised in 2020.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The AGM will be held at Beckford Village Hall, at 1930hrs on Wednesday 2 December 2020. **POSTPONED**

Current annual subscription £7.50

No attendance fee for meetings for members except on special occasions. Unless specified, visitors are very welcome, but will be charged £2.00 per meeting.

COMMITTEE

(March 2020)

Chairman: Roger Umpelby (01386 881449)

Vice-chairman: Mike Barrett

Secretary: Ian Parsons

Treasurer: Mary Fenton

Programme secretary: Judy Templeton

Members: Anne Clark, Judy Green, Sandra Lloyd, Di Smith, Louise Jaram

Luncheon Club



We will be back in action as soon as circumstances allow on the first Friday of every month at 12.30 in the Chapel Hall



We are always pleased to welcome new diners, and would really appreciate more helpers. We offer a choice of soup and rolls, puddings, and coffee (or tea) and chocs, all for just £3. (And second helpings if you can manage it!)

All surplus funds are donated to local good causes.

Please contact Joy Barnett on tel. 01386 881145 if you would like more information.

JustGiving

The crowdfunding page set up for the village volunteer team (who are still valiantly collecting and delivering prescriptions & shopping for many residents) raised £380. At their request, funds were spent on PPE for the team. Many thanks to all those who donated. **Richard Close, ASC**



Ashton 88 Football Club



Ashton 88 FC have returned to competitive fixtures with league matches set to commence on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September 2020 for the Juniors and Seniors respectively.

Ashton 88 FC Juniors

This season the club will see seven teams compete in the Ambassador Saturday League and our Under 7s and Girls Team will continue through the development programme established at the club. The club will play all fixtures at Ashton Playing Field and Beckford Playing Field due to the growth of the club over the past couple of years.

Ashton 88 FC Seniors

From September both the Firsts and Reserves will play their home fixtures from their new home at Evesham United Football Club after securing suitable changing facilities for the season. Both teams will be sad to say goodbye to playing matches on the 'famous' Ashton Playing Field.

We are really pleased to announce that the Senior Team are also supporting the CALM Charity (Campaign Against Living Miserably) to raise awareness of the scheme; a particularly important topic given the current pandemic. **Graham Begley**

Elmley Castle Village Market
Thursday 10th September
 9.30-11.30am

We will be continuing to hold the market **outside the village hall** over the summer (in the event of bad weather, it will be inside the village hall - face coverings required).

Stalls this month to include:
 Tilesford Larder (sausages, bacon, pies)
 Truckle Cheese
 Styan's Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
 Homemade cakes
 Decorative metalwork garden ornaments
 Flamingo Paperie
 Pat Lovett's Jams & Preserves
 Oscar - much more than petfood
 Four Acres Nurseries
 Rachael's Artwork
 Andrew Rollett's speciality coffees (for take-away service)

Mobile post office (including banking services) 9-10am
 Social distancing measures will be in place. Hand sanitiser available.
 Enquiries to Sara Speed 01386 710776



PARISH MINIBUS SHOPPING TRIPS
Currently Suspended but back in action as soon as feasible!

The minibus can take you shopping to either:
 ♦Bishops Cleeve (Tesco) on the first & third Friday every month
 ♦Worcester on the second Friday (Leaving Ashton from 9:15am).

Also, on the fourth Friday each month, a visit to a Garden or Shopping Centre, usually leaving at about 10am and returning shortly after lunch.



Door to door service possible for those who buy too much to carry!
 To book your place, please call 01386 881145 or call in at the Wednesday Coffee Morning in the Chapel Hall.



NEWS FROM THE FARM

Although 2020 has been the most peculiar and unusual year for everyone it has been an unequalled year in the farming community. Most arable farmers are just wanting harvest to be finished and they are looking forward to the ground being cultivated and new crops being sown. To put this into perspective since the end of September 2019 we had five months of continuous wet weather culminating with the wettest February on record. The result of this was that many crops were lost or not even sown. Usually such a wet spell would have taken months for the ground to recover from, but when things began to dry in March and the sowing of spring crops took place we then had two and a half months of drought with the sunniest April on record, the combination of the two extremes has resulted in crop yields being down by at least 33%.

The grass was also adversely affected by the drought especially on the hill where it over lies the limestone resulting in fewer wildflowers. Where it was grazed off re-growth was almost non-existent and for a while there was a desperate shortage of feed for the sheep until the rain came. In July some of the fields greened up as if Spring had just arrived. I have not recorded them but we have had a record amount of very windy days some of which have been gale force. Although in the past we have had months of continuous sunshine as in 1976 I cannot recall a time when we have had such high temperatures as we have just had for a whole week in the middle of August. It is a month that so often can be disappointing weather-wise with more wet days than dry, just when the cereal harvest needs to be gathered in. Sedum sales have continued steadily since the lockdown and work has continued throughout.

The increased numbers of cyclists passing through the village have been noticeable, as have the numbers of people walking discovering "new" footpaths and enjoying the environment which has made their lockdown so much more bearable. One of the greatest joys experienced by many was the birdsong being so noticeable due to the fall in road and air traffic. It was interesting to notice that in the hayfield three weeks ago following the mower, were a pair of Ravens, a pair of Buzzards, a pair of Red Kites, a pair of Kestrels and one herring Gull looking out for the small mammals to swoop up. Not so many years ago it would have been just Kestrels that would have been there. **Charles Archer**

Ashton Open Gardens August 2020 update

Well, it goes without saying that Ashton Open Gardens 2020, along with so many other events, didn't happen, and to add insult to injury the weather on the second weekend in June this year was perfect for a fabulous Open Gardens event; Not too hot, not too windy and no rain, what more could we have asked for, other than no COVID!

However, on a positive note, lockdown has given us all a chance to 'nail' some of those garden projects we've been putting off, plant up areas we usually try to forget and experiment with new plants and different veg we wouldn't normally consider.

With the weather we were blessed with this spring and early summer the gardens have looked wonderful. Have a look at our video filmed by village gardeners [Virtual Ashton Open Gardens 2020](#). It was filmed around the time the real AOG would have been happening.

We have also gained many more new gardeners who previously would find any excuse not to garden. To those of you new to gardening, it's contagious! Don't stop.....welcome aboard!

Looking ahead to 2021, Ashton Open Gardens will be, once again be held during the second weekend of June, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th. Please pop it in your calendars and diaries now and save the date.

Much of the preparation that was in place for 2020 will roll over to 2021 and as ever we will be encouraging the usual cohort of garden openers to let us in to show off their gardens to our visitors, and hopefully some of the new gardeners and new residents to the village may wish to join in. Your garden doesn't need to be a perfectly manicured show garden, our visitors enjoy the diversity of our village and love to see the progress and development in gardens year on year. We will also be rallying the willing volunteers, without whom the event really could not happen. If you would like to open your garden or join our band of volunteers, we would be delighted to hear from you, please don't hesitate to make contact.

As usual we will have the ever-popular Village Plant and Produce stall, always so well supported and well patronised by our visitors. Jams and preserves are a firm favourite, and we usually ask for donations after the main harvest time, this year however, we are getting in early. So when bottling, pickling, jamming and preserving this autumn please add a couple of jars for the AOG stall. When tidying, dividing and taking cuttings this autumn and next spring, add a few extras, any plants and produce you can spare will be gratefully received.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer and happy gardening!

Jim Teague, Chair, Ashton Open Gardens Committee
Tel 07585 893323 Email: contact@ashtonopengardens.co.uk



ASHTON VOLUNTEER TEAM



The chapel regularly donates items of food to the Pershore Food Bank and will be looking for support during this challenging time. If you would like to contribute, just leave items in a bag in the chapel porch. Please contact Andrew Barnett to let him know on 07778 650587. Thanks everyone.

www.pershore.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

Countryside code



During lockdown, many of us have walked our beautiful hill more frequently than ever before. Unfortunately there have been some issues and complaints to the PC. To ensure that the paths, some permissive, remain open for all to enjoy please follow the Countryside Code.

- ▶ Leave gates as you find them
- ▶ Keep dogs under control
- ▶ Pick up dog poo
- ▶ Take used poo bags home
- ▶ Keep to the designated paths.

If you believe a path to be incorrectly marked or are unsure of a Right of Way, you can contact:

County Council

Public Rights of Way

Nikki McIntyre

GllrMcIntyreAUH@outlook.com

Andy Robinson (clerk)

Ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk

Ashton WI Summer Report 2020

Covid changes for the WI

Our President, Doreen Parson, has been wading through reams of advisory and safety recommendations supplied by the National Institute of WIs – it has been quite a challenge to decide what will be the best way forward for our own WI, especially as the use of the village hall might be out of the question. The Annual Meeting will also have to take place in August/September. Quite a challenge during these difficult times.

Since lockdown, the committee has been keeping in touch with members with regular news updates via Marjy's newsletters. Jane, our programme secretary, has moved all the arranged speakers from April 2020 to next year, when hopefully we can resume as normal.

Federation events have been cancelled but some have been rearranged for later in the year. In the meantime, they have been sending reports and photographs via the WFWI newsletter of other WIs activities throughout the County, also craft ideas online to keep us occupied.

A garden meeting

We did manage to hold a successful garden meeting on 18th in Judith Hunter's garden. The sun shone and members really enjoyed a friendly chat and cup of tea. Distancing was observed of course (!)



March

The March speaker was **Mr John Butterworth** and his talk was titled 'Hitting the Headlines'. He was an engaging speaker who guided us through his career in newspapers – mostly local as opposed to National because, as he said, "I prefer to be a big fish in a small pond". During his time training with the Daily Mirror, he was able to interview many celebrities, including Cliff Richard. He has taken a Land Rover to Nepal; was one of the first journalists to be invited to tour China in 1986 and later Albania. He has written many books about his experiences and was inspired after meeting the wonderful Lily Gaynor from Liverpool who was a nurse, midwife and translator to the Papel peoples of Guinea Bissau in West Africa. Among many awards he has received, in 2008 he was awarded an MBE for services to journalism.

Visits

Fortunately, in July, fourteen members were able to visit a lovely garden 'Long Hyde House' at South Littleton. The sun shone and it was so good to see and chat to members (plus a few husbands), whom we hadn't seen for ages.

Breaking news: We have just heard that our wonderful Denman College in Oxfordshire, is to close down permanently due to heavy financial losses and high maintenance cost. This has always been such a great place where members and family can stay in lovely surroundings and enjoy weekend courses on just about every subject imaginable. A great blow to everyone I am sure. Hopefully, some philanthropist will come to its rescue!!

It is a very challenging time for our organisation at present – as is for the rest of the world. We hope we can resume our regular meetings very soon and get back to what was normality. We are so fortunate to live in such a lovely village and caring community and have plenty of places to walk and take exercise. In the meantime, stay safe and alert everyone. **Jen Creese**





NEWS FROM THE STAR

Hello everyone and a HUGE thank you for supporting us through lockdown. We have had a very busy time over the last couple of months. From the lockdown and the creation of the Star Shop in the bar; to veg, grocery and meat box deliveries; to takeaway and delivery of our whole menu; from creating VE Day picnic boxes to Father's Day Cheese & Beer Gifts, we have kept ourselves very busy.

It's been a stressful, fascinating, depressing, enlightening, frustrating and fabulous time for the team. We loved meeting people from the village that we hadn't seen before and loved delivering the boxes and hot meals around the village and to Long Carrant Park. We have been delivering out to Beckford, Sedgeberrow, Overbury and Evesham weekly and it's certainly changed our views on the word 'community'. Our volunteers, especially Andrea, Helen, Penny & Sarah in particular, and everyone else that helped out delivering and answering the phones, made this happen for us. I couldn't have employed people to fill these roles as we didn't have the income (not much profit in cabbage!) but they all came together and helped us make it happen. Chloe deserves a special mention for delivering all your hot meals and veg boxes.

We set out on this lockdown journey to simply keep the pub afloat until we could reopen, but it quickly became so much more. I have cried on the phone with customers who had called to say a friend had told them about us and they are disabled and can't get to the shops, they were running out of food and didn't have the internet. Could we help? I've laughed at someone's essential shopping list then set off to track down lime marmalade. I've stamped my feet at the quality of the broccoli that came in for the veg boxes and I've danced in the kitchens when we had 100 take away Sunday lunches on order. I've smiled at every one person Sunday lunch we have delivered because that meant someone that should be eating with their family was alone, but still thought of or cared for.

So where are we now? The great reopening. We are open and trading again as a pub. Our fabulous gardens have been full, but people are still very wary of coming out for meals. That's OK and we understand. You can still order the whole menu for take away and have it at home. We deliver every evening (except Monday) and Sunday lunch, or you can pop down and collect, we will have it ready.



STAR SHOP

We have kept the shop. We have fresh fruit and veg, wine and beer, ice cream and chocolates, scotch eggs, pork pies and sausage rolls, eggs, milk, cheese and bacon, household essentials and bakery treats. Open Mon to Sat 10am to 6pm. It's in a secret room through the snug.

You can still order your meat and veg boxes with us, they are available for collection or delivery on Wednesdays and Fridays. Local produce from your local pub.

Thank you for looking after us and allowing us to look after others. We hope to see you all soon. In the meantime you can give us a call for your take away or anything else we can help with on 01386 881325.

Vicky, Ed, Joel & the team x

Throughout lockdown we continued our unit meetings via zoom which was an interesting experience! Now with the new term about to begin, we are hoping to be able to do most of our meetings outdoors...Fire lighting, wide games, night trails and outdoor cooking are all part of the plan. If you would like to join us and are a girl aged between 10 and around 14 (or older as we do now have a Ranger section for older girls), please do contact us through <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk> or by phone on 07976 958450. We'd love to hear from you! **Ali Stephenson**



Remembering Bill Shead



Bill was born on 10th January 1922 and died on 26th July 2020, aged 98yr. Bill was called up for service on the 18 September 1941. He was in the Royal Corps of Signals and was sent abroad to fight for his country soon after. He was joined by his brother Ken soon after, but Ken was unfortunately killed in a freak accident, when a lorry in which Ken and Bill were travelling stalled on a railway line and was hit by a train. Bill continued to serve around the world and had many tales to tell, a lot of which have been penned to paper.

Bill met Norma on his return home and they subsequently married and moved around until they settled at Westmead in Ashton in 1989. Bill and Norma loved entertaining and ballroom dancing and also joined Beckford Tennis Club where apparently Bill was very sharp at the net and gave valued guidance to the juniors. He became club treasurers and was the first to put the accounts on computer. Bill and Norma also joined Beckford Gardening

club and rarely missed any of their outings. Bill was also a very talented artist and cartoonist and some of his lovely pictures adorn the walls of Westmead.

Bill was devoted to his wife Norma and missed her terribly when she died 3 years ago, also his son Richard, who sadly died in January this year. Richard's death hit Bill very hard and health-wise changed things for the worse. But he could still be his lovely amusing self, with his great sense of humour, and keep all the grandchildren (and the adults) enthralled with his tales, and burst into song and recite poetry. It was a great privilege to have had him in our lives. He touched the hearts of the people who knew him. **Carmen Shead**



Bredon Hill Academy News Summary

At the time of writing, the new term is set to start on Wednesday 2nd September for Year 6 pupils and for all pupils on Thursday 4th September. We wish the staff all the best with the new regulations.

During the summer, BHA successfully reapplied for the **MetMark** award from the Met Office. They fulfilled categories such as:

- ☀ Running a weather station
- ☀ Making regular contributions to WOW the Weather Observations Website
- ☀ Running a weather club, making regular weather observations and doing weather related activities
- ☀ Running a weather blog regularly
- ☀ Evidence of good weather fieldwork
- ☀ Evidence of excellent weather teaching in Geography, Science and English



For more information about what's going on at the school, visit their website: <https://www.bredon.worcs.sch.uk/>

VILLAGE MAILING LIST

If you are not an internet user you might like to join the village email list. We promise you will not be bombarded with emails! Your email address will not be shared with anyone else, either locally or with any external agencies, companies etc. It is stored in a confidential Parish Council electronic folder.

If you would like to be on the mailing list, please contact us at ashtonuhillcommunity@gmail.com.

Alternatively, if you would just like to be sent information on an ad hoc basis, just let us know at the same address. **Karen (Comms Cllr)**

Leavers and arrivers!

After more than 30 years in the village, Kathy & Simon Sellick are downsizing and have moved away from Ashton. They are hoping to stay local so their many village friends hope to see them back here regularly. As keen runners and walkers we will miss seeing them around the place, often with Dip, their black lab. Good luck to them both! Welcome to the new family now occupying The Maples.

The Ed

Parish Council Report August 2020

As always, your Parish Council have been working hard to maintain and improve many aspects of our village. Our new Clerk Andy Robinson has settled in well. He is also the Clerk for Elmley Castle Parish Council, giving us a great link to our neighbouring Parish.

Highways

- ❖ You will be aware that both the pavements for the new development on Elmley Road, and also the refurbishment of the pavement from Wood Lane to the end of the village have now been completed, thanks to Adrian Hardman (our County Councillor) for his support on this.
- ❖ Over 18 months ago Highways committed to make some changes at the entrance to Long Carrant Park to make this safer. The entrance to be widened, and a pedestrian refuge will be put in the centre of the A46 for residents crossing to the garage shop. In addition road signs will be put both ways on the A46 to warn of the concealed entrance to the Park. We had been told this should now be in this financial year – but we await further confirmation, as previous promises have been made.
- ❖ The A46 will be resurfaced between the Elmley turning and the Grafton turning through Sept and Oct – further details have been shared.
- ❖ We have agreement that Highways will review the drainage in front of the Chapel – this has been an issue since the parking was put in place! This currently may take a few years but we are trying to raise the priority. If you use the Chapel and would like this addressing, please contact Wychavon – or report online (Highways/Drainage). Your support may help to raise the urgency of this.
- ❖ We have requested dropped kerbs at the end of Cornfield Way. Highways say this is not on their priority list, so we are looking at alternative ways to fund this.
- ❖ You may be aware that the surface water drain on Cottons Lane, opposite Chandlers End, has been leaking for more than a year, and had started leaking foul water since April. Highways and Severn Trent have made several visits each to clear this. We believe that this is finally cleared, but the recent rain will be a good test. The drain did have a football sized fat ball in it, which is a good reminder about the importance of not putting fats down drains.p

County Council plea – buses are still operating, and are available for all to use – you need to wear a mask, and numbers are restricted to allow social distancing. Our County Councillor has urged people to go back to using the buses, as they are currently very quiet, and bus routes may be removed if they are not used.

Planning - a reminder. The Parish Council is only one voice that is considered by Wychavon when planning applications are being assessed. If you feel strongly for or against an application you should submit your comments to Wychavon planning – this is easy to do online or by letter.

Website / Communications

- ❖ As a reminder – we have an email circulation list for news and updates from the Parish Council. If you would like to be added please contact Karen Rowley.
- ❖ The Parish Councillors now have specific emails for correspondence relation to Council matters. This is

in line with GDPR changes earlier in the year. Mine is CllrHewittAUH@gmail.com. Please use this if you want to raise any matters with the Parish Council or via the Clerk on ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk

Vehicle Activated Speeding Sign

We have purchased a solar powered VAS, which will be permanently located on the Groaten. It is one of the more advanced signs that identifies your speed – these are shown to be more effective in reducing drivers speeds. Due to COVID we are unable to get the pole positioned by Highways to attach this to . We are hoping this will happen in the next few months.

COVID

Life is slowly moving back to something resembling life before March. However, there are still restrictions in place, that protect all of us in the community. Please be aware that Social Distancing is still in place, as are restrictions on numbers of people gathering.

Our volunteers have been very busy supporting the villagers, and are still supporting those that need this. They have been sterling in their support of us all, and we are very grateful.

Other

- ❖ We have had the Phone Box refurbished – I'm sure you'll agree that it looks very smart now. This is for a book exchange and an additional noticeboard – details of how the book exchange will work will be published soon.
- ❖ It's active growing season...a reminder to all of you with hedges and trees that border pavements in the village. Please keep hedges trimmed back away from paths to allow pedestrians to pass freely.
- ❖ The Lengthsman has been unable to work for a few months due to COVID restriction imposed by County and then due to an illness . He is now back at work, so please flag any issues to us or the Clerk for his attention.
- ❖ The Cricket Club sadly had some vandalism a couple of months ago. They have asked us to remind you all that if you see anything suspicious to report it to the Club, the ASC or the Parish Council.

And finally, the Parish Council had a vote of thanks at their last meeting for John Kenrick. He is soon to be leaving the village and we wanted to recognise his years of contribution to the village community, through stewardship of Open Gardens, leading the footpath team and his willingness to be part of and volunteer for all activities from the feté to Run around Supper etc. You will be missed, John!

Sarah Hewitt (Chair)
Parish Council

St Barbara's Church



What strange times we live in! I'm sure nobody expected the Covid-19 crisis would still be influencing our lives months on from the beginning of the lockdown in March, but signs of life are emerging. One of the challenges has been working out how general guidelines can be applied to our situation, but we are getting there. The church committee is pleased to say our lovely church has been open since the end of June and we have been able to resume services, rather cautiously, and within the new guidelines, but nevertheless it is a great feeling.

We are currently open from 10.00am to 5pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays for private prayer, and the building is cleaned between these times. Thirty people can be accommodated for a service, singly or in groups, and we have tried to maintain a welcoming atmosphere.

Rev. Catherine Lack from Bredon officiated at the Communion service on 9th August; she is a very friendly and straightforward lady who has recently retired here from Newcastle and we hope to welcome her again soon. The service was followed by a picnic in Bruce and Philippa's garden – our first social occasion and much enjoyed.

Catherine also officiated at the funeral of Bill Shead on 20th August. It was a quiet and dignified service with mostly family and a few friends; a tribute to Bill was interspersed with recorded music, carefully chosen by Carmen, Bill's daughter-in-law, and organ music played by Anthony Greenwood.

Rev Allison Davies and Alison Khan have done a wonderful job in producing church bulletins and on-line services for several months and we do appreciate the hard work that goes into this. The process of appointing a second priest for the Bredon Hill group has been re-started so we hope for progress on this front. Meanwhile it has been a positive factor to join other nearby congregations for services, Beckford, Elmley Castle, Overbury, and support each other, and this will surely continue.

Future events

We will be discussing how to commemorate Harvest Festival on October 4th in some suitable way, and organising a churchyard clear as is normal at this time of year. Please see Noticeboard and on-line for details. The church magazine will be coming out again, in a new and improved form. Many thanks to Lawrence Alexander who has directed the operation for many years.

Good news

We are delighted to report that the East window has been repaired very skilfully by Norgrove Studios and is looking very good – you won't be able to see where the new glass has been put in. You may have wondered about the rather curious orange T shape markings along the church path. These are as a result of the surveyor's visit in connection with provision of water and drainage to and from the church. Things are moving at last! Thank you to Malcolm Nelson for organising both these in lockdown.

Contacts: Alastair Humphrey 881479, David Hunter 882087, Malcolm Nelson 881778 for the Church Committee

What's On at Ashton under Hill Free Church Autumn 2020

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus issues, all meetings at Ashton Chapel have been suspended since mid-March.

Following the major refurbishment of the hall entrance and toilets at the chapel, we are very keen to re-start meetings, both on Sundays and mid-week, as soon as practical and safe, and are hoping that will be sometime in September (2020!)

For the latest updates please visit the chapel website
www.ashtonchapel.org.uk

email: admin@ashtonchapel.org.uk

or call us on any of these numbers:
Andrew & Joy 881145, Geoff 881740, Doreen 881656, Joan 881237

ASHTON NEWS VILLAGE CONTACTS**Tel No 882466 Mobile 07976 906653 Email: karenmrowley@hotmail.co.uk**

Name	Details	Contact	Contact details
Activities			
Cricket Club (adults)	Summer- Saturdays & Sundays	Will Archer	881756 will@simplysedum.co.uk
Cricket Club (juniors)	Summer- Fridays 6-8pm	David Whitehouse	424393 dave.whitehouse63@gmail.com
Football Club (adults)	Winter- Sunday mornings	Graham Begley	07725 909808 / 881206
Football Club (juniors)	Winter- Saturday mornings		frankiel@hotmail.co.uk
Footpath volunteers	Working groups	Leo Enright & Paul Rowley	881087 leoenright2002@yahoo.co.uk
Gardening Club	Beckford V/H 4th Weds 7:30pm	Roger Umpelby	881449 roger@bugman.free-online.co.uk
Guides	Village Hall, Weds 7-8:30pm	Ali Stephenson	07976 958450 ali.stephenson@live.com
Brownies	Village Hall, Weds 5:15-6:45pm	Charlotte Nicklin	07714 783545
Rainbows	Village Hall, Weds 4:15-5:30pm	Jemima Barnett	Jemmimaob@gmail.com
Lunch Club	Chapel Hall 12pm, 1st Fri month	Joy Barnett	881145
Friends & Neighbours	Last Tues in month, 2-3pm	Margaret Darby	881862 ma.darby@icloud.com
Mini Bus	Worcester 2nd & 4th Fri Bishop's Cle & 3rd Fri & Private Hire		881145
Parish walks	Summer evenings	Alastair Humphrey	881479 gmhumphrey@hotmail.com
Little Big Learners (of School Children)	8-6pm; All holidays except holidays, First School inset days	Graham Begley	07725 909808 littlebiglearners@gmail.com
Organisations			
First School	Headteacher	Alison Peacey	881333 head@ashton.worcs.sch.uk
Middle School	Headteacher	Miss D West	881426 office@bredon.worcs.sch.uk
Free Church	Main contact	Andrew Barnett	881145 topcott@gmail.com
Busyfingers, mums & toddlers	Chapel Hall Thurs 10-11:30 am	Doreen Cope	881656 doreencope1@yahoo.co.uk
Coffee Morning	Chapel Hall Weds 10-12 noon	Joy Barnett	881145
Parish Council	Chair	Sarah Hewitt	881070 clrhewittauh@gmail.com
	Clerk	Andy Robinson	ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk
Ashton Social Committee	Village Hall and playing fields	Jane Swindells	07557 022839 janeyswin74@gmail.com
St. Barbara's Church	St Barbara's - clergy contact	Revd Allison Davies (Vicar of Eckington)	01386 750203 eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com
	St Barbara's Team	Alastair Humphrey	881479
		David Hunter	882087
Open Gardens (2nd weekend in June)	Chairman	Jim Teague	07585 893323 jimteague@hotmail.com
	Marketing Co-ordinator	Andrew Cooke	881715 andy@thecookies.org.uk
Women's Institute	Village Hall 1st Tues 7:30pm	Marjory Facer	882171 marjofacer@gmail.com
Ashton Bellringers	St Barbara's Church Tues Eve	Nick Hopkins	881711
The Star Inn	Open daily	Ed & Vicky Spires	881325 thepub@thestar-ashtonunderhill.co.uk
Services			
Ashton website & Ashton News	Information and events	Karen Rowley	07976 906653 ashtonuhillcommunity@gmail.com
Milk delivery	Mon.Wed. Fri. Sat.	Cotteswold Dairy	01684 298959
Mobile library – 3 rd Monday in month	10:55 Gorse Hill; 11:15 Cornfield Way; 11:35 School		01905 822722 eveshammobile@worcestershires.gov.uk
Newspaper delivery	Monday to Saturday	Doreen Cope	881656
Mobile Post office	Tues & Thu 12:30-1:30pm Chapel car park	David (Driver)	Enquiries to ashtonuhillcommunity@gmail.com

Not all organisations and clubs operating currently, please check with contact