



Safeguarding our village's future

# *Around* **Ashton Hayes**

Newsletter from Ashton Hayes Parish Council



October 2009

## **COMMUNITY SHOP**

The plans to open a community shop in Ashton Hayes are progressing well. Thanks to everyone who has purchased shares or made a donation to the project. We have already raised over £16,000, including generous donations from both Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth Parish Councils. An application for matched funding has been made to the Plunkett Foundation who support community enterprises which if successful would bring us to our target of £30,000 to take the project forward. Membership certificates will be issued to all those who have purchased shares once the target has been met. The Committee has begun interviewing for the post of Store manager. It is planned that the store will have some refurbishment and a change of layout before opening and the committee has developed the proposed changes with help from a community project team from Tesco.

In order to launch this project successfully in the next few months the committee still has a great deal of work to do and as we are only a team of six we would be grateful to hear from anybody who feels they can be of any support, particularly in the following areas.

Administration support / Personnel Skills / Retail experience / Health & Safety issues  
Joinery / Painting / Decorating / Applying for licences / Stacking shelves

You may feel you have specific skills in an area or are just someone with a few hours to spare who would be willing to help us over this busy start up period.

We are also still looking for volunteers to support the Store manager once the project is up and running. Training will be given, so don't worry if you have no previous experience. We just need willing helpers who can commit to a few hours every two to three weeks.

Please contact Lisa Allman on 01829 751043 or email [ljallman@btinternet.com](mailto:ljallman@btinternet.com).

## **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

Ashton Hayes Parish Council is looking for a candidate to replace Councillor Lu Strudwick, who has recently resigned due to personal commitments.

The new councillor will step into the position at the next Parish Council meeting which is scheduled to take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009. The Parish Council meets eleven times per year, usually on the first Monday of every month (apart from Bank holidays and in August). Nominees must be able to commit fully to the duties of a Parish Councillor and the above meeting dates.

Please note that nominations for this vacancy must be made in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

For more information please contact: Andrea Thwaite – Clerk to Parish Council, 64 Ringway, Waverton, Chester, CH3 7NP [clerk@ashtonhayespc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ashtonhayespc.co.uk).

## **CARETAKER & BOOKING CLERK VACANCY**

The Parish Council also has a vacancy for a part-time caretaker/booking clerk to ensure that the Parish Rooms are kept clean and in good working order; to open and secure the building before and after specific bookings; to allow access to the building as and when required; to maintain a booking diary and process all charges for lettings. Because the caretaker has to lock up after all bookings, ideally, the successful candidate should live in the locality.

The post is for approximately 15 hours per month with additional hours by agreement during busy periods. The current hourly rate is £6.12. The times will vary according to the weekly bookings. Only applications in writing or by email will be considered. Please send to the Clerk at the address or email above.

## **NEW BUS SERVICE TO CHESTER**

The bus service linking Ashton (plus Stamford Bridge, Barrowmore and Great Barrow) with Chester and Tarvin is operated by Cheshire West and Chester Council, for residents of these communities. To use the service, residents need first to register with the Integrated Transport Service (Tel: **01244 973039**) then use the same telephone number to book a seat to travel. People travelling regularly can make a booking for this without having to ring up for every trip. It's easy to use; why not give it a try?

The Department for Transport(DfT) Permit system under which this service operates has revised some of the rules such that the form you need to fill in **no longer** has the proviso about declaring whether or not you have access to private transport. Pick up points are Brookside & The Golden Lion in Ashton Hayes, Lansdowne Road in Stamford Bridge, Great Barrow Primary School, and Irons Lane in Barrowmore.

## **PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

At the time of writing the Parish Plan document has been sent to the printers. It has been a long haul getting the document to its final form and I must publicly thank M&M Communications for their generosity and patience. They have completed all of the editing and typesetting at no cost and the Parish Plan Steering Group is extremely grateful to them. The steering group is currently planning a launch event for the plan and once details are confirmed the event will be widely publicised. Please send any query to:

Paul Varey Chair(Parish Plan Steering Group) Email [paul@varey.demon.co.uk](mailto:paul@varey.demon.co.uk) or Telephone 759472

## **RECYCLING GREEN WASTE**

We are generally getting used to the new system, but some residents with quite large gardens have found even the big green bins sometimes can't cope with the volume of prunings etc during the summer, and bundles of these aren't always collected. There are plenty of folks with smaller plots who often have a half empty bin, so if you regularly have some room and know someone not too far away who has a surplus, why not get together? The collective capacity of all bins in the village should be more than the total volume of green waste each fortnight, and sharing this capacity would seem like a good plan.

## **GOING CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT**

### 4th Annual Household Carbon Footprint Survey

The results from this year's survey were published in August. Go to the 'Technical Stuff' section on the GCN website ([www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk](http://www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk)) to find the results and analysis of our 4-year journey, over which period we now seem to have reduced our footprint by 23%. Well done everyone.

### Microgrid feasibility report published

The results of the 12 month study were presented to the Parish Council in September and the complete document (6Mb) is available from the GCN website. It provides recommendations tailored to Ashton Hayes covering installing wind turbines, photovoltaics and CHP with a seasonal heat store. It also recommends a further detailed study to finalise the type, location and connection of generation, and working with Leapfrog to develop a CORE (Community Organisation for Renewable Energy).

### Low Carbon Communities Challenge funds

At the October Parish Council meeting there was a unanimous vote in favour of registering our interest in applying for capital funding as a 'first mover' community under the recently announced Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010-2012. The GCN Project team will lead the application in due course. The Dept. of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is offering substantial funding to 20 'beacon communities' that are in the forefront of fighting climate change. Details of the fund can be found on the DECC website.

## **FREE SWIMMING LESSONS FOR OVER 60s**

CWAC has joined the Amateur Swimming Association and Age Concern to offer free swimming lessons at Northgate Arena. Sessions are for non-swimmers aged 60 upwards and take place over six weeks from: 26 October – 30 November 2009, 11 January – 15 February 2010, 22 February - 29 March. Councillor Richard Short, Culture and Recreational portfolio holder for the Council, said: "These classes could be the perfect motivation to kick-start a new fitness plan or simply to improve mobility and physical wellbeing." To book a place telephone Age Concern on 01244 677777.

## **RECREATIONAL FIELD**

Instead of an article in this edition of Around Ashton we are enclosing a copy of 'Open Space' which is the newsletter of Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreation Association, which should tell you all you need to know about the current situation and on-going activities.

## **SCHOOL REPORT**

Ashton Hayes Primary School has started the year with much energy and gusto! The children led a thought provoking and interesting Harvest Service at the Church in September and have explored the cultures of different countries during a week of 'Celebrating the World'. This involved art activities, research and food preparation – the children particularly enjoying the food tasting!

The school is holding an Open Afternoon on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 1.15pm to 3.15pm. This invitation is for current parents as well as parents considering the school for children in future years. It is an opportunity to get a glimpse into the life of the school, seeing what goes on in classrooms and experiencing the exciting activities on offer to the children. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

## **SECURITY NOTES**

### Key issue

There have been several burglaries in Ashton Hayes in recent months, in some of which the felon used what is termed the 'hook and grab' method. This involves a long stick with a hook being inserted through a letter box or cat-flap and using this to 'grab' car or house keys. The simplest way to thwart these type of burglaries is to always keep your keys well away from outer doors, preferably in a room which doesn't have an outer door. This will also stop the opportunist thief who is prepared to enter, say, a kitchen via an unlocked side entrance for just long enough to snatch your car keys, but won't risk going further in. The more difficult you make it, the better chance you have of avoiding trouble.

### Police presence

PC Robin Elliott, who has attended the last two Parish Council meetings is the new member of the Village Community Action team which covers Kelsall and Ashton. PC Elliott stated at the last meeting that, when his shift hours allowed, he would make himself available in Ashton on a Tuesday morning to coincide with the visit of the library van to the car park at Ashton House Nursery, to discuss policing related matters with residents. If his police car is parked in the layby opposite the entrance then PC Elliott will either be in the car or in the nursery car park. The library visits once a fortnight and stays from 11:20 to 11:40.

To contact Cheshire Police use 0845 458 0000 for non emergency calls. Only use the 999 number to summon the Police if there is a danger to life, violence is in use or threatened, a serious crime is involved, or a suspect is nearby.

## **PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PUB**

It is now 6 months since The Golden Lion reopened and 3 months since Gary Yule agreed to become Head Chef. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the pub by gracing us with their presence, and Gary would particularly like to thank those who have sampled his cooking.

I hope that everyone who has yet to enjoy the delights of Gary's handiwork will visit us soon. In addition to our standard menu, Gary has designed a Market Menu of two courses for £9.95 available 12-2.30pm and 5-7pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - (Restaurant closed Mon/Tue). In November and December our Christmas Luncheon menu offers two Courses for £11.95 or three Courses for £13.95, and Christmas Evening menu four Courses for £19.95

During the past six months we have endeavoured to re-establish the reputation of The Golden Lion by offering quality produce at reasonable prices. Gary is a talented chef and I have every confidence in his ability: you can be sure that he will be able to cater for any occasion. We are also working on our reputation for quality ales and I am pleased to report that we have been short-listed for the Good Beer Guide. Thank you for reading this far, I hope that you feel able to support your village pub and I look forward to welcoming you to The Lion in the not too distant future. Best wishes - Robbie Burns.

## **SOME LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS**

### Cricket Club

The Ashton Hayes Cricket Club has had an excellent season by finishing 2nd in the Chester & District midweek league-1st Division. This was quite an achievement out of over 50 teams in the whole league. The Sunday team was also successful with 9 wins, 2 draws and 5 defeats. These results include the mini-tour to Chalfont St Peter in Bucks where both games were won.

A barbeque was held in July at the WI Hall and a profit of £900 was made.

Next season starts at the end of April and new players should contact Martin Bolton ( Tel: 01829 752092) or Robert Lewis ( Tel: 01829 751541).

## Ashton Hayes Theatre Club

*'When shall we three meet again?'*

Terry Pratchett takes Shakespeare's Macbeth and then winds it up till the wheels come off. It's all there - a wicked Duke and Duchess, the ghost of a murdered King, dim soldiers, strolling players and a land in peril. And who is it stands between the kingdom and destruction? Three Witches: Granny Weatherwax (intolerant, self opinionated, powerful); Nanny Ogg (down-to-earth, vulgar); Magrat Garlick (naive; fond of occult jewellery and bunnies)

We promise you'll laugh, you'll cry and you may even be a little bit frightened. If this sounds like something that could be right up your street and you would like to do something more interesting than watching TV, then please come along and show your support for Ashton Hayes Theatre Club with their next production:

**Wyrd Sisters by Terry Pratchett**

**Thurs 12th November to Sat 14th at 7:00pm Also Sat matinee 3:15pm Doors open 6:30 & 2:45**

**At Tarvin Community Centre** (That's right folks this time we are going to perform on a **real stage**)

For Tickets please contact Steph 01829 752394 or Yvette 01829 751327 Adults £7 Children £5

## Gardening Club

Our final two meetings for the current year, before the Christmas party in December, will be:

Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup> 'The Gardens at Chester Zoo' (Mark Sparrow)

Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup> 'Wild Flowers in Crete' (Tom Dean)

We are always pleased to welcome new members, and some of the reasons for joining us include:

10% discount on purchases at Okell's gardening centre; excellent talks and slide shows with free tea and biscuits; all for £5 a year. There are visits to English country gardens (costs vary) and a great Christmas party. Contact is :- Trevor Scadeng on 01829 751770

## Scouts

Congratulations to Ashton Hayes' Scout Leader, Alan, who has been awarded the Certificate celebrating 20 years as a leader in Scouting. The District Commissioner, at a recent meeting of the district's Scout Leaders, presented the certificate to Alan.

Scouting at Ashton continues to go from strength to strength. The members are currently training on a number of backwoods survival techniques and these skills will be tested when they have an opportunity to use them in a survival exercise later in October. The Scouts summer programme ended with a weekend camping at Tatton Park where the young people (and leaders) had opportunities to have a go at dingy sailing and open canoeing..

There are currently a few vacancies for young people from 10 and a half to enjoy Scouting at Ashton starting around Christmas and there are also opportunities for adults to help and support activities for the young people of the area by becoming leaders.

For more information on scouting in the Ashton area please contact Alan or any of the group management team. Alan and the leaders can be contacted at the Scout hut (unless we are doing activities away from the hut) on Tuesday evenings, or by email to [chilealan@btinternet.com](mailto:chilealan@btinternet.com).  
or [www.chesterscouts.org.uk](http://www.chesterscouts.org.uk)

## List of Parish Councillors

Garry Charnock	01829 752714	<a href="mailto:garry@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">garry@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Hugo Deynem	01829 751830	<a href="mailto:hugo@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">hugo@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Richard Holland	01829 751761	<a href="mailto:richard@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">richard@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Dave Lee	01829 752642	<a href="mailto:dave@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">dave@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Trevor Scadeng	01829 751770	<a href="mailto:trevor@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">trevor@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Diane Stubbs	01829 752718	<a href="mailto:diane@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">diane@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Pauline Tilley (Chair)	01829 751524	<a href="mailto:pauline@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">pauline@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Maria Wood	01829 751051	<a href="mailto:maria@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">maria@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>
Andrea Thwaite (Clerk)	01244 336662	<a href="mailto:clerk@ashtonhayespc.co.uk">clerk@ashtonhayespc.co.uk</a>

Meetings are held at 8:00pm in the Parish Room, usually the first Monday of the month (except August)