

Around Ashton

Community News from Ashton Hayes Parish Council

Parish Council to lead review of our community facilities

Over the next few weeks the Parish Council will be inviting various groups in the village to join in with a review of the function, use and condition of the various community facilities. The Parish Council is aware that some organisations are struggling to rent out space and therefore having a hard time paying for building maintenance. The intention of the review is to determine whether it might be possible to rationalise some of the facilities to ensure that all our buildings are used more effectively and can be maintained properly.

The review will also consider how all our facilities can be best supported both financially and in other ways.

Representatives of those who own, manage and use village facilities plus members of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Planning Group will be invited to join in with the debate. If you would like to be involved or have ideas, please contact Garry Charnock on 01829 759258.

Community shop does well – AGM report now available

Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth Community Shop held their third AGM on Wednesday 12th September at Ashton Hayes Primary School. During the evening the accounts for the trading year 2011/2012 year were presented, followed by a report on the business performance over the last year and the plans for the upcoming year. The 2012-13 shop management committee was also confirmed during the evening. Details of the accounts and presentations given, will be made available on our website at www.ourvillageshop.org and on our Facebook site shortly. Thank you, once again to Chris Priddey, for the use of the school for this event.

Over the next few weeks we will be updating our website, So take a look to find out the most up to date information about upcoming events at the store. Volunteers are critical to the running of our community shop. Without the support of volunteers our shop



Last chance to see AHTC to perform *The 39 Steps*

Rehearsals are well underway for Ashton Hayes Theatre Club's next production which is a comedy for adults (though the club is sure that children will enjoy it too!). This adaptation of 'The 39 Steps', by Patrick Barlow has enjoyed enormous success in the West End - winning Best New Comedy and two Tony Awards. It has been available for amateur performance for a number of years but has now been withdrawn so this could be your last chance to see it performed locally! Tickets for this hilarious comedy are going to sell out fast so don't be disappointed and book early. Dates are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th November. For tickets call Yvette 07707 830286 or Steph 01829 752394.

would not be viable and we are very grateful to all our volunteers who help in many different ways in the shop. We are always looking for the support of more helpers, and if you could spare even one hour to help we would be very grateful. Training will be given and there are many different tasks in the shop that volunteers can help with. Volunteering can be a good way of meeting new people. Many of our younger volunteers are able to record their volunteering experience on their CV. If you are interested or need more information please call in at the shop to see our manager Deb Deynem or call 01829 759023.

Our Open Day this Christmas will be held on Saturday 24th November. We hope you will join us to sample some Christmas treats from our local suppliers, and see the Christmas Range we have in store this year.

Village Hall sees transformation

Many of you might have noticed over the last few weeks that there has been a lot of activity at the Village Hall. A small but very energetic working party, led by Tom Donnachie plus family and some friends have been undertaking major renovation work making the hall much more versatile and attractive to use.

It now has three rooms, two large and one smaller one plus a much-improved kitchen and toilet area. It is intended that over time space upstairs will be able to be utilised too. The building now looks fresh and bright and credit must go to Tom and his family for the investment of both time and money in a venture which has had the full support of the Village Hall Committee.

The Village hall is now of course the home to the *Janis Anderson School of Dancing* and as primary users of the building these changes will greatly improve the facilities available to the very many local children and adults involved in the whole range of dance classes offered there. Other regular users of the Village Hall currently include *Kelsborrow Choir*, *the Ashton Hayes Community Choir* and the local *Badminton Club* who will see a big improvement in the facilities. It is hoped that as a result of this initiative the hall will over time become better used by the village than it has in the past. If you are interested in making a booking, whether it is for a one-off event or for regular use you should make enquiries through Helen Rimmer at the local Post Office [tel. 01829 751210] during Post Office opening times.

Parish Council request on hedges

At the last meeting the Parish Council were alerted to a seasonal problem - some people are having with access around the village due to overgrown hedges. It would be much appreciated if those with hedges could ensure they are kept cut back so as not to obstruct pedestrians and ensure clear vision.

OPAL's sweet funding success

Kelsall Opal Club runs a weekly fun activity and social day on a Monday in Kelsall Methodist Church Hall. It is open to people living in Ashton Hayes and is intended to prevent older people with limited mobility from becoming socially and physically isolated. Kelsall Opal Club is one of five being run across rural West Cheshire and we benefit from the invaluable contribution made by our teams of volunteers to make this a success. Our volunteers are local men and women of any age. Some volunteer to drive our members to and from the Club, others cook and prepare the homemade lunch and others provide the range of general support and assistance our members require on the day.

Our organisation has during its first year been notching up some successes. Apart from the core funding it receives currently from the Council it was successful last year in obtaining additional funding to run some Adult Learning programmes designed for people in retirement living in rural areas. We won an award for this activity and have since secured funding for this year to run a wider range of programmes.

We have just heard that we have been successful in applying for funding to provide a Carers Support service based in the rural areas we cover. This will be run by volunteers supported by our small staff team. Finally we are in the process of introducing a mobile internet café again run by volunteers who will assist and support older people living in rural locations to use and feel comfortable with new technology.

We always need more volunteers to help run these several projects and would be very interested to hear from anyone who feels they have some time to spare. Contact with janeville@btinternet.com or telephone 01829 752607

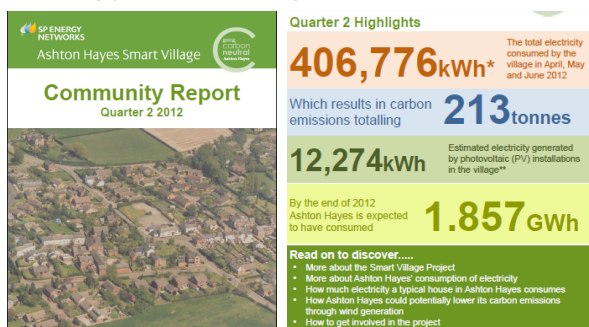
Ashton sports clubs round up

Ashton Football Club - The season has started well for the 1st team with wins in the opening two league matches so we are optimistic of a good season ahead. The Vets X1 also looks strong and should do well. Home matches are

on Saturdays, kicking -off at 2pm and will be advertised outside the Post Office.

Ashton Hayes Cricket Club - The club has struggled through lack of players and the Sunday X1 folded before the season started. The mid-week X1 completed the season but suffered from the same problem on occasions and were relegated to Division 2 for the first time for many years, having been champions in the previous two seasons. The season ended with the annual 5 a-side competition which was won by Heido's men. Anyone with an interest in playing cricket or helping, should contact Robert Lewis 01829-751541

Come and join our Community Energy Company



Scottish Power Energy Networks is kindly monitoring our energy use across the village and now gives us these quarterly reports that are available on the PC and Going Carbon Neutral Websites. www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk.

Ashton Hayes Ashton Hayes Community Energy (AHCE) is a Community Interest Company (CIC), which means that it is owned by the people of Ashton Hayes and works for the benefit of the village. It was set up in October last year to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in the village and it owns and manages the solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the recreation field pavilion and school. The intention is to build up the village's renewable energy capacity, through further grants and fund-raising initiatives and by investing the profits made by generating green energy. Everybody is invited to our AGM in the Parish Rooms at 7:30-9pm on 22 November at which any village resident over the age of 18 can become a member of the company and have their say in how it moves forward.

Timebank ticks along nicely

Ashworth Timebank as usual has various events planned in addition to the range of different holistic therapy dates it has in place and running in Kelsall and Tarvin. For more information about these contact Timebank Office, based in the Community Shop, telephone 01829 751398. In addition the following classes commence in September ...*Pilates, Tai Chi and Gentle Exercise*... all run weekly in Ashton Hayes with a second class of *Gentle Exercise* running also in Tarvin. On Sunday 7th October it will be running a 'Musical Afternoon tea' at the WI Hall starting at 3.00 pm. Tickets are £3.50 each and can be obtained from the Timebank Office.

Future plans for St John's Church

Members of St John's Church are keen to see our building adapted to make it more environmentally friendly and suitable for wider community use. We need a new heating system and a toilet and small kitchen area, but there are other changes we would like to make to ensure a good future for the building.

We recently applied for a grant to carry out a Feasibility Study in partnership with EnergeticUK Ltd, who have worked on a number of projects in Ashton Hayes. We will know very soon if we have been awarded this grant. Then we will begin consulting church members and the wider community on how we can best move forward.

We believe that it is very important that we work in a sensitive and constructive way with other community groups in this process. Nothing will happen without full consultation and the approval of the relevant church authorities. But it is our hope that St John's will provide an excellent model of a church that takes seriously its environmental responsibilities and its role in a forward-looking village community.

David Lamb, Vicar, St John's

The life of a Beauty Therapist!

It's a very busy time if year for beauty therapist Gillian Forgrave. Not only was she one of two organisers of the recent Rose Queen celebrations, she has also been organising a fun dog show in the village, held at the school on 30th September. In addition Gillian is making celebration cakes for clients and later this Autumn will be holding an Open Day at her new beauty premises in Brookside. For details and/or appointments, call Gillian on 01829 751943

Ashton Hayes & Tarvin Flower Club arranges entertainment

If you like flowers and meeting people then why not join us for an evening of entertainment as you watch a skilled flower arranger demonstrate their art. All arrangements are raffled so you may even take one home with you. We meet in Tarvin Community Centre on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm (except in August and December). More information is available from 01829 740855 or 01829 740473

Field to get more equipment

Thanks to a £25,000 grant from SITA, the recreation field is looking better and better. The pavilion now has a smart path all around it, a small patio area and wooden cladding on all its walls. CCTV equipment has also been installed. It also has some outdoor gym equipment, which is proving to be very popular. The gym has been designed for adults and children over the age of 7 only. Other improvements in the pipeline include a further swing and tree and shrub planting to soften the look of the car park area. With the gym equipment and the running track, you could get fit and feel better. So get on down there and flex those muscles!

Neighbourhood Planning update

Earlier this year, the Parish Council decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, a concept introduced by the Government as part of localism and modernising the planning system.

The Neighbourhood Plan will become a policy document and is therefore the first time in generations that the Parish can plan and have a real say in how Ashton Hayes and surrounding area should look, feel and what it should provide in years to come. A great deal of time has since been spent in discussions with Cheshire West and Chester Council to understand what is required in such a plan, keep up to date with the guidance coming from national and local government and any changes as other areas develop their plans and come up against problems or queries. Our latest timeline shows that the process is likely to take a further 18 months to complete and more volunteers are always welcome for all or part of that process. There was an encouraging response to an initial survey of 100 local households and some drop in sessions at the Parish Room which not only showed that people really cared about the future of our area but also identified a number of issues or topics that should be covered. The main focus of a Neighbourhood Plan is intended to be land use and building development, though it can include other aspects of community life such as local amenities and the environment. Those issues are summarised below and we would like your feedback on them. We are not putting this forward as an approved list but as issues and topics raised by residents, that they feel should be considered when drafting the Plan. There is of course overlap between issues, some appear to contradict one another and some raise more contentious questions than others. Using the reply slip could you let us know whether you agree or disagree that these are the most important topics to consider in the Plan and whether there are additional issues that you feel should be addressed? Please place your completed reply slip in the Neighbourhood Planning Box in the Community Shop or send your comments to janecolville@btinternet.com We will be publishing further Neighbourhood Plan updates on the village website - www.ashtonhayespc.co.uk.

PC Meetings are on 2nd Monday of every month. See website www.ashtonhayespc.co.uk.