

West Ashton Magazine



Stocks In Pots

Photo by Holly Westlake

**The Neighborhood Plan Is Done, and now it's
our turn to vote on it—see page 15**

***Our community magazine keeping you up to date in West
Ashton, Rood Ashton, East Town, and Dunge.***

The West Ashton Magazine is published quarterly by the West Ashton Parish Council. WAPC has devolved full authority for the magazine to an independent volunteer Editorial Group formed for the sole purpose of producing this magazine. The intention is to inform and entertain the residents of West Ashton. The magazine is distributed free of charge to all residents of West Ashton village. The Editors warmly invite you to submit reports, articles and photographs relating to past or future village issues and events, or any subject that may be of interest to the readership. The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions and make corrections, omit material or do minor reorganisation to any submitted work and reserve the right to reject any submissions. We prefer typed or electronic material. Photos will be returned on request.

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Editor: Jo Watkins - 01225 753196 :g.watkins521@btinternet.com

Producer: Tim Le Mare - tim@westashton.org.uk

Front page photo Stocks in Pots by Holly Westlake.

All contributions welcomed. Please send them, in the first instance, to Jo Watkins.

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EDITORIAL

It's been a grim time for everyone, but by the time you receive the magazine, most of us should have had our vaccinations with most restrictions lifted - it's been a long haul back. Inside you'll find an article on the West Ashton taxi service, previously known as Boomerang. Wiltshire Council is keen to expand this service and is open to suggestions on other routes. I would like to thank Kelly Beavis for sponsoring the magazine. Take a look at the

article on the Longs Trust which financially benefits residents in the event of a major catastrophe. Covid has proved itself without doubt to be a major catastrophe, with jobs lost and people struggling in so many ways. News which may come as a surprise to most of us is that we can boast our own West Ashton river – read all about it inside. I hope you all summer well and enjoy the freedom so sadly lacking over the previous year.

Jo

The West Ashton Connect 2 Taxi

Just a reminder that we have our very own taxibus service to and from the village at rates you can't argue with. As we're not on a bus route, this service, previously known as Boomerang, has been a lifeline to those who don't have their own transport to go into town, and for those of a certain age, to get a free ride with their bus pass. Villagers say they have found the door to door service invaluable, using the taxi for shopping, visits to the doctors and hospital, and even to connect with other buses from the town centre. Wilts Council would like residents to email them at buses@wiltshire.gov.uk if

they would definitely like to use the service, and if they could offer more suitable times for their needs with maybe alternative options to the hospital, railway station or Bradley Road retail park area, now a popular part of Trowbridge. So if you fancy a trip to McDonalds, Matalan etc., make sure you get in touch. Details of rates and pick up and drop off times can be found at the back of the magazine. As they say, if you don't use it, you'll lose it – it's a valuable service to the village.

Jo Watkins

Pottering In The Garden

It is unbelievable, how quickly twelve weeks pass by, but now all we seniors have had our second vaccine and of course feel that at last there is a light at the end of the tunnel. All us gardeners have certainly had a trying start, with excessive rain, and then too little, followed by night after night of heavy frosts. I am not hurrying to plant out, as I know they will not grow in these extremely cold conditions. My seed beds are still having a cosy fleece over them at night, and so far salad onions, beetroot, radish and carrots are growing well in my raised beds, also my favourite lettuce Lollo Rossa and Little Gem, firm favourites of mine.

It's April 28th as I write, and my runner beans are potted on, and several are climbing up a cane, I don't feel it is safe to plant out, and I continue to take them out of the greenhouse during the day and return them at night, gradually toughening them up! I have had some exceptional tulips, from a mixed bag which I think to be rather exotic - so many petals, also one of the stocks, far too advanced, to plant out. But I did manage to hold back some smaller ones and planted them into trays, so I have enjoyed the perfume of the more advanced ones every time I enter the greenhouse! My cherry tree in flower was the best ever. My many second

year cowslips are a picture beneath the hedgerow, and hellebores amassed with so many flowers this year. I could almost believe it is really spring, apart from how cold the weather continues to be!

We are so lucky here in West Ashton, we can see so much sky, and I watched an amazing sight, whereby a pair of crows, literally chased an enormous heron away from its nesting young, they really did see him off! I have hedgehogs in the garden, and I have seen several green woodpeckers that seem to find ants nests around the stones of my lazy garden path.

TOPTIP



Relax and enjoy your summer in the garden, one of the rewards for all the hard work.

Holly Westlake

Armchair Bird watch spring 2021

I have been patiently waiting for my swallows to arrive. I call them my swallows because every year, for about 50 years, they nest in one of my sheds. Usually they arrive by mid April, but alas this year none have come yet, and it is getting very late in the season. Years ago Cyril, my husband cut a hole in the shed door for them so that he didn't have to get up at 6am to let them out! A robin seems to have taken residence at the moment, I believe they are very territorial, so I hope they haven't frightened the swallows away.

I have two bird feeders outside my window now. The robin sits on the table and looks in at me through the window. I just saw a blackbird feeding from the table too, that is unusual, they are usually ground

feeders.

Deer are often in the garden now, eating whatever takes their fancy – I saw a very large one the other day on the lawn, with big antlers. How they manage to cross Yarnbrook Road and avoid the traffic is amazing. I can't cross the road without someone with me, it is too scary. Janet took me to Whitehall garden centre this week, to buy geraniums. She will plant them, hopefully the deer won't eat them.

I read as much as I can on various topics, and have just finished reading Captain Tom's book 'Tomorrow will be a Good Day'. What an interesting life he had.

Evelyn Sweetman

NEWSFLASH – 1st May

After finishing my article, I saw two swallows flying around the garden, it made my day. Fingers crossed they will nest, I'll keep you posted.

Lockdown Layout

It was around the 16th March last year when Boris announced the lockdown with a suggested timescale of 12 weeks. Covid changed my railway plans for the year. I had two layouts almost fully booked out on the exhibition circuit and had planned that the third layout, which was about 8-10 years old needed a complete redesign during the winter.

Covid changed all that as all the 2020 shows around the country were cancelled with no known restart date. (In fact we still have no date for exhibitions, but assumptions are that things will start again in September). Much will depend on how major public events are managed and under what rules.

However this made me re-plan my layouts. The two that were ready to go were packed in their transit cases and I decided to pull out the old layout and see how I could redesign it, re-using items such as track and some buildings in a new layout. It took about a month to carefully demolish the buildings, electronics and scenery whilst at the same time drawing up a new plan for a different layout.

Having worked it out I took the fortunate step of listing everything I thought I would need, ticked off the items I had in stock and then began to order up the items I knew I needed.

By this stage many of the model railway equipment producers had calculated that it was just as profitable to furlough 90+% of the staff and just sell the items they had in stock. As a result I only managed to acquire about 60% of the items needed from my normal suppliers. One company in particular had decided to stop producing its house kits in brick and only concentrate on stone buildings. As I had half a street of brick built semi detached houses I had to scavenge the internet for shops with some in stock. Local shops had items but were charging ridiculous prices for postage. My search went from Cornwall to the Isle of Man, from Norfolk to Stirling and a couple of companies in Europe, but in the end I obtained most items and adjusted my plans to take account of shortfalls.





The whole construction was planned in detail with a scheduled completion of April 2021. The layout has to accommodate exhibition running which means probably three trains running at any one time, plus different trains appearing at different times so that you do not have “ground hog days” with the same trains going round and round. The other main criteria are for there to be series of different dioramas.

As of 23 April 2021 the layout is ready for public exhibition, which means It can be left and work can resume of the club layouts in Steeple Ashton on 17th May, six people at a time – so we have three shifts, Tuesday morning, Wednesday evening and Thursday morning which allows all our members to participate.

Ron Pybus

Correspondence

Hello Jo,

I just wanted to thank you for including a tribute to Roy & Margaret Matthew in the spring edition of West Ashton magazine. Margaret was my cousin and we have always been very close although my visits to Ashton Heights had been more frequent since retirement. They spoke often of how appreciative they were of the neighbourly warmth and practical support they received, particularly during the latter years when they both struggled with mobility.

They were delighted to move to the village in 2001 and even more so to find everyone so welcoming. Both thought the world of the West Ashton community and I know they enjoyed many of the village activities over the years. Please pass my thanks (and that of her other cousin Tony) to Wendy Bartlett for her kindness.

With warm regards
Roger Henderson

LARKRISE COMMUNITY FARM

Wow where did that year go....and what a year it was!

This time last year we were in the throes of the first lockdown. One year on we are delighted to have all our clients back at the farm. This is thanks to the amazing, combined efforts of our great team of staff, trustees and supporters.

COVID aside, we have seen some other major changes; not only to our premises, with a new main farm sign and railings around the entrance, but also with our livestock. On Valentine's Day 'Big Pig', one of our Saddleback sows, went on a romantic journey to West Ashton to meet a gorgeous Saddleback boar. She returned four weeks later with, what we hope will be our next litter of piglets. We are eagerly awaiting the sound of tiny trotters in June 2021.

At the end of February, we sadly said goodbye to our oldest Anglo Nubian goat Gertrude. She was almost 17 years old when she was put to sleep. She was a real character and sorely missed, however, she had a wonderful life here at Larkrise. Gertrude will always be remembered for her many cheeky ways, including happily chewing on students' paperwork when our backs were turned!

In April we also bade farewell to our current four ewes. They all went away to pastures new, either to breed elsewhere or to live out retirement in luxury. We subsequently took delivery of six gorgeous orphan ewe lambs who will be our next breeding flock. The adult clients and students all thoroughly enjoy bottle feeding them, (as do the staff!) and we are now having fun training the lambs to walk on leads.

We are currently trialling a 'Quiet Corner' session for some of our Riding for the Disabled clients so they can renew their contact with our horses and ponies. We view this as the first step towards restarting our Larkrise/Hampsley RDA Group, which is planned for the Autumn.

We aren't open to the general public just yet but hope to be able to do so once restrictions are lifted on 21 June. We are really looking forward to finally being able to see our many friends in person rather than via Zoom! We have missed them all and have very much appreciated their support in these challenging times.

Take careand hopefully see you in the summer. 😊

Ashley Wicks, Business Manager, Larkrise Community Farm.

West Ashton School

West Ashton School is once again buzzing with learning and ringing with the sound of laughter. What wonderful noises to hear. After a long second lockdown, we welcomed all the children and staff back in March and look like we might have our first full term of 2021 now.

Our children and parents were incredible during home learning: joining live lessons; uploading work; meeting online with classmates; completing many different curriculum tasks on the kitchen table; and doing it all with a smile on their face (at least most the time!)

This term, the children in Shooting Stars, our reception class, are particularly excited about the tadpoles in their class and have high hopes of releasing frogs soon after watching the butterflies they had seen transform from caterpillars, fly high above our playground. "I love learning in school. I like topic best, especially ponds." Ethan. Our oldest children have had a virtual visit

from Wessex Water to discuss water and climate change. The children were full of questions about where our water comes from, how is it that we don't get fish coming out our taps and what will happen if it rains more or less in the future as well as the inevitable question about flushing the toilet and how that water eventually flows back out the tap!

Those of you who have walked over the fields will have seen our new library taking shape. Our incredible Friends of West Ashton School (FOWAS) group have been raising money for this over the last 18 months and it is wonderful to see the building almost complete. The staff in school are now fundraising to buy furniture for the inside by seeing how many times they can walk the equivalent of the Wiltshire boundary between Easter and the end of June. If you would like to support the school in this endeavour, please do get in touch.

Alex Blake-Thwaite



Work starts on the school library

Photo Jo Watkins

The Magazine 10 Years Ago

Peter Loxley-Smith wrote a most interesting article on memories of old Rood Ashton. He mentioned that the chauffeur to Rood Ashton House living in the old stables, used to give them a lift while walking back from the school to Rood Ashton Farm. Pauline Hume sent in these photos of the stables when they lay derelict after most of the main house was demolished.



He also added that while putting up racking in the cellar for the growing of mushrooms, he found the Priest's retreat. He followed it down towards the Brake, the small copse on the hill, where it was caved in from there on. He used a sound device, and thought it may have run to the old icehouse.

Royal Wedding Celebrations – included an afternoon street party in Orchard Close, an evening 'do' in the village hall and A Celebration of Marriage service in the church.



Jo Watkins



And Today Around The Area

Bratton Road

This union jack was spotted flying at half mast as a mark of respect for Prince Philip.

Photo Jo Watkins

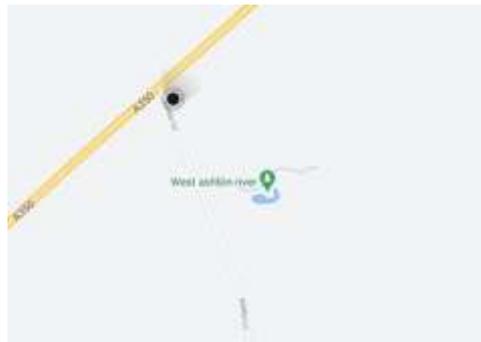
West Ashton River

Here's an interesting local geographic feature that has recently and surprisingly appeared on Google Maps; how it got there I don't know. If you search for "West Ashton River" you will be presented with a map centred on Kettle Lane. It shows a watercourse rising at the edge of Flowers Wood, flowing down past Mr. Joyce's duck pond and terminating just by the lane.

The map fails to do justice to our noteworthy local stream, other than giving it a rather grand title. Lifelong local resident Bryon Humphries remembers the source as being a pond, now possibly filled in, located at a high point between Flowers Wood and Bratton Road. The drain flows down along the hedge lines and through the wood, then diverts to feed the duck pond. It continues its mighty flow through a culvert under Kettle Lane, carrying on through a shrubby corridor down the side and across the bottom of Mrs. Sweetman's field. It eventually disappears from sight, apparently feeding into a hidden channel that runs at the side of the A350. I imagine that the water will make its way across Yarnbrook and thence into the Biss.

The entirety of this impressive watercourse lies on private land with no access for walkers, picnickers etc.

Pete Hughes



Google Maps section showing the feature.

The river as it exits the culvert under Kettle Lane

A DIY Job To Far - Rescued

In the last issue of the magazine I described the disaster that befell my DIY efforts at building a retaining wall. Rescue came when we enlisted the help of a builder who did a proper job on the block wall; this was in November before the poor weather arrived. Come the New Year we waited patiently for

the wet weather to clear and luckily, from the beginning of March, we had six weeks of mostly good conditions in which we were able to reconstruct the timber fascia and create a stepped effect.



Paul Workman

West Ashton WI

I just looked back to the report I wrote for the magazine last year about the W.I. in which I said we had an interesting programme of events booked for the coming year. Little did I know that a year later I would be able to reiterate this statement about more or less the same programme! Well let's hope it goes better this time.

Our first meeting will be on 23 June and will be a combined AGM, birthday party and a welcome back social even-

ing.

In July we will set out on our annual mystery trip to, well that would be telling! On 25 August Sue Waldron will be telling us all about her "Travels on a Narrow Boat".

We look forward to welcoming all our members and if you'd like to join us please come along. Fingers crossed see you on 23 June at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall.

Jackie Bradley



WI 1999 Bring and Buy stall. L-R Jo Watkins, Mavis Haines, Margaret Moore, Holly Westlake, Maureen Welch, Joan Vince. Front Phyllis Cowles, Lyn Pybus.

Wives

Hopefully we will be able to resume the meetings of the Wives group in September. Further details in the next edition of the magazine.

West Ashton Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

Voting “Yes” will be a vote for West Ashton’s Future and the Preservation of its Rural Identity

Consultation with the community has led to the development of the following vision for the Parish for the period to 2026.

West Ashton will remain a largely rural parish, absorbing a well-screened and designed Ashton-Park urban extension into a landscape that remains predominantly green and still retaining fine, open views. The main village will still be a friendly welcoming community with its own separate identity from Trowbridge.

However, while maintaining and if possible enhancing the best of the village; its heritage, school, church, nature habitats, and frequent social events, West Ashton will gain improved local facilities including recreation for younger people. Sustainable transport links to Trowbridge and to shops, schools and employment opportunities in Ashton Park will be created or enhanced to reduce the need to travel by car and improve access. Community action such as Community Speed watch will help tackle speeding vehicles and the routing of HGV’s. Broadband connections will be improved to facilitate working from home.

Development in the main village will be limited to small scale infilling sufficient to meet local needs. While being generally in keeping with the scale and materials used in existing buildings, any new houses should feature innovative design to reduce environmental impacts. One-off self-build homes of up to 3 bedrooms on appropriate sites will be encouraged.

The Plan Objectives

The Vision and the feedback from the community were incorporated into a set of Objectives for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. These state what the NDP is aiming to achieve through its overall strategy and policies.

To maintain the rural setting of the Parish, especially around the main village of West Ashton and the hamlets of Dunge, East Town, Heath Hill and Rood Ashton but also in terms of far-reaching views towards Trowbridge

To improve sustainable transport links in the parish, especially those to Trowbridge, Westbury & Melksham.

To improve local facilities including those for recreation, a local shop and / or Post Office.

To protect valued Local Green Space.

To encourage limited housing growth for local needs via modest scale development such as infill, especially self-build and housing of a high environmental standard.

To use good design to protect heritage, improve local habitats, preserve rural character that makes West Ashton special and encourage sustainable buildings.

To tackle local highway issues such as speeding and non-farm HGV traffic.

To conserve and enhance local nature and their habitats including bats.

To protect and enhance the Village Hall and Church.

To tackle climate change and its effects through design and maintenance of drainage.

The Objectives reflect the informed views of local people and are likely to help deliver sustainable development. Where matters do not fall within the sphere of land-use planning, they will be taken forward through community actions such as lobbying, Community Speed Watch and activities coordinated by the parish council in conjunction with other key stakeholders such as the Church and village school as appropriate.



**NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN REFERENDUM**



YOUR
Vote



MATTERS

THURSDAY 24th .JUNE 2021
WEST ASHTON VILLAGE HALL
07.00-22.00

By voting "Yes" it will be a vote for:

***West Ashton's Future and the
Preservation of its Rural Identity***

For more details visit our website: <https://westashton2020.org.uk/>

Printed and published by West Ashton Parish Council.

Parish Council Matters

Parish Councillors are: Richard Covington (Chair), Steve Molloy, Ian Robertson, Horace Prickett (Wilts Councillor also Vice Chair), Tim Le Mare.

Parish Council Clerk: Nicky Bull westashtonpc@outlook.com 01225 754552

The West Ashton Parish Council website is now up and running and can still be reached via the old website. Please take a look as it now has an audio facility - <https://westashton2020.org.uk/>

Elections – Local elections took place on the 6th May 2021 however because there was less than the seven councillors allowed for the Parish of West Ashton the five candidates were automatically returned, therefore a further two councillors can be co-opted.

Councillors: Richard Covington (Chairman); Horace Prickett (Vice-Chair) and Wiltshire Councillor; Steve Molloy, Ian Robertson; Tim Le Mare

The parish council has continued to meet via “Zoom” during the pandemic.

Neighbourhood Plan – The plan has now passed the final assessment before being put before the parish in a referendum on 24th June 2021.

Fly Tipping – Contact Wiltshire Council on 01225 777234 or online at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/mywiltshirereport.htm>

Community Speed Watch (CSW) – West Ashton now share the speed device on a three weekly rota basis with Bratton and Edington. If you would like join the team of three you would be very welcome. Please contact Richard Covington or Nicky Bull. It would be really helpful for more volunteers to get involved. It’s usually only a couple of hours a week at most and because of the sharing the device unlikely to be more than once every six weeks.

Longs Trust Trustees... Four Trustees were approved for the Longs Trust at the parish Council meeting held on the 19th May 2021. The trust was setup in 1670 with the objective of helping the poor in the tithing of West Ashton however the task now is to updating the trust so that it is more relevant to needs in the 21st Century. The Trustees are appointed for a term of four years and is the prerogative of the parish council to make the appointments.

Recreation Area – Repair work to the footpath is schedule for w/c 28th June 2021

Richard Covington
Parish Council Chairman

West Ashton website: www.westashton.org.uk
please send any comments to the Clerk

Longs Trust

A reminder - The Longs Trust Charity was founded by the will of Henry Long dated 1670 and augmented by the will of Richard Long dated 1730. The sums left were invested in the purchase of land for the use and benefit of the poor of the tithing of West Ashton. The land eventually fell into disuse and in 1966 was sold for £750 and the proceeds invested in 674 shares in the Charity Commission investment fund. The policy over recent years has been to use some of the income from the shares to make donations where cases of need are brought to the notice of the Trustees. It should be noted that funds cannot be used to help in cases where they are the responsibility of Government Departments or Local Authorities. The remainder is put aside to build a fund that could be used in the event of a major catastrophe occurring

in the village.

Primary contact can be made via the Parish Council clerk who will pass onto the Trustees. Alternatively contact can be made directly to the trustees. Any enquiries will be handled confidentially and will not involve parish councillors unless contact is made through a councillor. The Parish Council's responsibility is to appoint the Trustees and receive the annual financial report and duly record at the appropriate parish council meeting. Application decisions will only be made by the Trustees.

Richard Covington

Footnote: - Richard wrote this article for the magazine several years ago, but nothing has changed.

Nicky Bull is the parish council clerk and can be contacted on 01225 754552 or email: westashtonpc@outlook.com



Site of the allotments along Yarnbrook Road, sold in 1966. The oak and ash trees were felled in about 2017. Photo by Pauline Hume, taken about 2000.

Village Hall News...

At the time of writing the village is beginning to come out of the pandemic lockdown with a few allowed. Hopefully by 21st June activities will be able to resume with some semblance of the “New Normal”

The requirement is that on entering the village hall a face covering must be worn and continue wearing it, unless covered under a ‘reasonable excuse’. This could be for a gym class, to eat or drink something, or if you have a health or disability reason to not wear one.

The exceptions to wearing face coverings are:

- Children under the age of 11 (Public Health England do not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)

- People who cannot put on, wear, or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability.

- Police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public.

- Where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress.

- If you are speaking to or assisting someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial

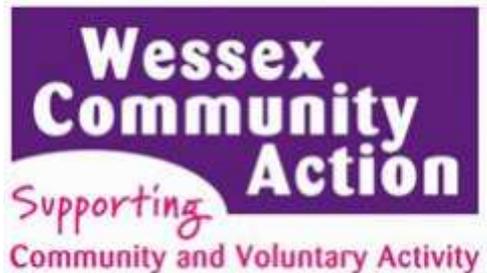
expressions to communicate.

Restarting the 50/50 club will be considered at the next Village Hall committee meeting, which will be scheduled in due course.

There has been some concern with activity at the rear of the village hall and to this end a CCTV system has been installed, which necessitates an upgrade to the current copper connected broadband system.

Jenny who has done excellent job as treasurer has sadly decided to relinquish the role at the end of the hall’s financial year in July. I’m sure there are many villages who would love to contribute to the wellbeing of the hall and work with a friendly team that endeavours to keep things of interest happening here in the village.

Finally a thank you must go to the Wessex Community Action – Supporting Community and Voluntary Activity who kindly donated a pack of hand wash - www.wessexcommunityaction.org.uk



Richard Covington, Chairman, Village Hall committee.

An update on the West Ashton/Yarnbrook relief road and what's happening to manage traffic.

In the last issue of the magazine, I reported that the £8.5 million of government funds earmarked for the West Ashton/Yarnbrook relief road had been lost as the work hadn't started on time. Although Wiltshire Councillor Bridget Wayman told us in an email that the Council was committed to the relief road, she didn't seem to know when and how this would happen.

We contacted Dr Andrew Murrison our MP who is aware of the issues and the problems the A350 traffic causes for West Ashton and other towns and vil-

lages along the route, he said he would be talking to Wiltshire Council about it. He updated us in early April this year to say that the key is the north-south study the county council is engaged in with Dorset, the Highways Agency and others. It's expected to report in September next year (2022) though we hope sooner, especially given the recently imposed CAZ (A36 Clevedon Bridge, Bath closure) which shifts traffic on to the A350.

Pauline and Rob Hume, Yarnbrook Road.



Photo of the crossroads taken in the early 1990s by Pauline Hume before the installation of the traffic lights. Looks quiet doesn't it?

Update from the Parish Clerk

Play area

We are pleased to report that repairs have now been completed to the balancing beams and the gate to the entrance of the park. We have also authorised for the tarmac path through the play area to be re-laid shortly, and the large rubbish bin will be relocated to the entrance/exit so that the public can dispose of their rubbish on the way out.

Dog fouling

Following a number of complaints of dog fouling in the village, the children in KS1 class, West Ashton Primary School, held a competition to make a poster about the issue. Check out the lovely poster which is now displayed on the village hall notice board. In order to hit home the dangers of dog owners not clearing up after their pets, there is also a poster from the council, which has been placed around the village and on the notice board. Dog faeces are harmful to humans and can cause blindness, so we have bins and poo bags available around the village and in the play area for the public to use. One bin is located outside the village hall and the second bin opposite the turning to East Town Road.

So the message is, let's keep our village clean and tidy! We all want to be able to safely enjoy walks around the village, but if you have any concerns you wish to report, you can call confidentially on 01784446411 or there is a dog fouling hotline on 01225 770343.

Nicky Bull



The Chairman of the Village Hall is looking for a volunteer to do the accounts. This will involve monitoring the income and expenditure throughout the year, inputting the information into a spreadsheet and checking bank statements.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Richard Covington at richard.covington@btopenworld.com, he will be happy to provide further information.

PRINTING OF THE MAGAZINE IS SPONSORED

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Jubilee Wood Scout Campsite

Thanks to the recent rain, our trees are now putting on growth spurts - let's hope that we don't get any more severe frosts. We have been removing tubes from the trees that seem big enough to deter attention from Bambi and his mates; we must have removed hundreds over the past few weeks but the overall outlook is still rows of tubes! We are also beginning to psyche ourselves up to begin thinning some of the trees where they are growing too close together. Having spent so much effort nurturing the trees, it will come hard to have to cut some of them down to let in light and allow the remainder to develop properly. At the time of writing, a team from

Natural England is recording birdsong in Biss and Green Lane Woods and comparing the results with recordings made in our relatively new woodland. It will be interesting to see the results. Sadly, our hopes to extend Jubilee Wood into the surrounding fields have had to be put on hold due in part to delays to the West Ashton relief road. Now that we are able to meet once again, bookings for the site have soared with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all anxious to take advantage of the light evenings to have fun in the great outdoors. The lockdowns over the past year have had an effect on our overall numbers but we hope that, as things return to normal, we will see more and more of our young people joining Scouting. This will mean that we will need to recruit more adults to provide leadership and support – in particular, we are looking for a District Secretary and a District Treasurer so please do get in touch for further details if you think that you could spare the time and do something really worthwhile for our young people.



Sunset over Jubilee Wood

John Cox



We prepare young people with skills for life.

National Garden Scheme



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Kettle Farm Cottage
Kettle Lane, West Ashton,
Trowbridge, BA14 6AW

Open by arrangement
June to September
for groups of up to 30
Adults £5.50 Children free

01225 753474
trwoodall@outlook.com
Tea and home-made cakes.

More information at ngs.org.uk

There are give or take 3,500 gardens throughout England and Wales that open for the NGS. Needless to say, last year was a washout. Some money was raised by Zoom lectures given by national garden designers, and also by tours of famous gardens. We give from the £3.5 million that we raise, an annual half million to each of Macmillan and Marie Curie, plus lesser amounts to other caring charities. We have a lot of catching up to do.

I spent most days in the garden last year getting rid of plants that I hated, and planting those that perhaps will be less hard work in the future such as not so much dead heading. It has kept me sane. Please see the notice, and if you want to visit a garden and enjoy tea and cake but don't want to go far, please pick up the phone. I look forward to seeing you.

Thank you,
Jenny Woodall

St John's Church West Ashton



Here we are again, but there are small steps forward with regard to the pandemic and lifting of restrictions. However, the first five months of the year at the Church has unfortunately seen little improvement, as so far this year we have held one service on Sunday 18 April; one proposed for May and hopefully one in June. Government guidelines of wearing masks and using hand gel, social distancing and no singing are being adhered to. Regrettably, there was no Palm Sunday Service, Good Friday or Easter Services or Rogation Sunday at St John's (our parent Church St Thomas in Trowbridge did manage to hold Easter Services which we were warmly invited to). Sunday, 18 April was the day after Prince Philip's funeral and the service at St John's touched on his life's work and commitment to the Queen and country. The National Anthem was played on the organ and it seemed strange not to sing to this iconic piece of music. March saw the first cut of the churchyard and a profusion of primroses was evident in the old part of the grounds. Fire extinguishers were serviced and a new extinguisher stand procured. Although St John's has had limited services, relevant posters were

shown for National Day of Reflection of those lost to the pandemic; Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In mid March, the Five Yearly Quinquennial Inspection by the architect took place. A detailed report followed with fortunately, no major work, but onward maintenance and care for the building and grounds are paramount. Dampness has and is a problem. End of April saw a visit from Class Y3/4 of West Ashton School, they came to Church to sketch the architecture both outside and inside of the building; it was good to see them working away with diligence and there are some budding artists among them. It is hoped that the Reception Class may be able to visit later in the month.



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is due to take part in the Church at the end of May and a christening is scheduled. Unfortunately in recent Months, two friends of St John's have sadly passed away. Mrs Dorothy Rogers who had helped with the church flowers for some years before moving away and Mrs Phyllis Mumford. She lived in Orchard Close and for some years was a regular member of the congregation before moving away (her husband Godfrey was a helping hand with Churchyard maintenance). Over the Lent period, St John's Treasurer (Jean Covington) had orchestrated a Water Aid Appeal. Jars were handed out for collecting coins/spare change over the six weeks of Lent.

This would help fund essential work to obtain and distribute clean, reliable water to those abroad who are less fortunate than ourselves. Folk at St John's managed to raise £330 which was duly sent to the Water Aid Charity - a gallant effort from all, especially Jean. As the Church was built in 1846 by the Long family, it will celebrate its 175th birthday this year. We hope that as the months proceed; St John's can gradually operate fully, welcoming its regular and new members. It would be wonderful to see you. Enjoy your summer, embrace a slither of normality and have fun. Stay safe.

Jean Robertson



Blossom Time – the Promise of Fruit!

This is such a lovely time of year when all around trees are bursting into blossom – don't you just feel better? I love pink ornamental cherry trees and, three years ago, was lucky enough to visit Washington DC during the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The ones pictured, however, aren't in DC or Tokyo... but Westwood, England!

But much as I love cherry blossom, it isn't my favourite. I much prefer apple blossom. That may have something to do with growing up in Kent, with its acres of orchards, but apples just seem to fit better in the English landscape. Cherry blossom is too showy and short-lived for my taste – we have just witnessed it all blown away by a storm, while the apple blossom clung on. And in the end, ornamental trees don't have any fruit to show for all that beauty.

I prefer the subtle pink and white flowers of apple blossom. And for me, it symbolises what Jesus taught about the Vine in John Chapter 15 – that anyone who is connected to him (as a branch is connected to the vine) will bear much fruit. I believe he was talking about our character and the effect we have on the world around us – good fruit leaves a wholesome taste; bad fruit a sour one. Blossom holds the promise of fruit to follow. When I lived in Kent I noticed that it was not just the healthy, young

apple trees that displayed blossom and then later fruit. Even neglected and gnarled old trees – or ones that had been blown over in a storm and were only connected to the root by the slenderest thread – were still capable of producing blossom and eventually fruit.

Maybe you feel as if you have been living through a drought – this last year, or maybe for many years. Perhaps you have been through storms which have blown you over so you're only just hanging on by a thread. Or maybe you simply feel old and tired (and a bit gnarled!) Good News! None of that disqualifies you from Jesus' promise.

And whether that fruit is obvious or hidden, celebrated or ignored really doesn't matter.

Allan Coutts

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)



May 6th. Unitary and Police & Crime Commissioner elections

On May 6th. polling took place throughout Wiltshire for County councillors, town and parish councillors and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). As many of you will know, I have been your county and parish councillor for some 9 years and I must thank all West Ashton voters for their support again for the next 4 years. In the Unitary poll I secured over 77% of the votes from the four villages in the Southwick Division, comprising West Ashton, Yarnbrook, North Bradley and Southwick. With many thanks to you, the voters, I now have the privilege and pleasure of taking forward your ideas, complaints and proposals to Wiltshire Council for action.

Elsewhere in the magazine you can see a notice of another forthcoming election (referendum). This is for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the village which has to be voted on and approved by you on June 24th.

By voting "Yes" it will be a vote for; **"West Ashton's Future and the Preservation of its Rural Identity"** and will give you and the parish council much greater control over changes and developments within the village. It is vital that this is confirmed now as a new 'Local Plan' for Wiltshire is in preparation and having a NDP will ensure that the village's voice can be heard and literally retain its rural identity and control what happens. If you really care for the village in which you live, you must visit the village hall between 07:00 and 22:00 and vote the NDP into existence.

Again, many thanks for your votes on May 6th. and do please get in touch with me if I can help in any way. Should the need arise, please contact me and I promise I will do all I can to help. My email address is: **horace.prickett@wiltshire.gov.uk** - **telephone 01225 76 76 85.**



Other Useful Numbers	Contact Information	
Builder	Paul - New build, extensions, renovation specialist, alterations.	01225 753997/07799 563347 19 Bratton Road,
Invictus Plus Care CQC reg	Kay Kamunga home care for the Elderly and Disabled	01225 760356
Foot Reflexologist	Annie Ritchens	01225 752002 Mob 07967630429
Garage Services	Briken Motors Garage....MOTs, servicing etc,	01225 755203
Newspapers	Richard –Seend News	07702 868863 seendnews@gmail.com
Parish Council	Chairman: Mr Richard Covington	01225 761904
Police Concerns	David Bradley Neighbourhood Watch Village Co-ordinator Neighbourhood Policing Team PC Mathew Till	01225 754100 Non-emergency No 101
Refuse	Community skips in Canal Road, Trowbridge for larger items.	http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days
Seamstress & Soft Furnishings	Clare Humphries, curtains, dressmaking and alterations	01225 767703 Mob 07929 122631
St. John's Church	Services Sundays 10.30am. Rev Allan Coutts	01225 777331
West Ashton Taxi Service West Ashton to Trowbridge.	Taxi service. Mon-Sat West Ashton to Trowbridge. Price each way: adult £1.60; child 80p; children under 4 free. Bus passes can be used.	Pickup 9.30am, 12.10 return 12 noon Or 2pm. Tel: 0800 371297 to book.
West Ashton C of E School	Debby Huxham Head Teacher	01225 754354
West Ashton Ladies Skittles Team	Liz Hickerton	01380 870437
Footpath Warden	Paul Workman	01225 766998
Beauty Salon Manicure Pedicure Facials etc	Kelly Beavis (Gift Tokens)	31a Bratton Road 07766117813

Regular Activities In The Village Hall

Dance Class	Tuesdays at 10am	Dee Dee Wilde	01380 871608
Dog Training	Thursday's at 6.30pm	Ken Scott	07867 820497
Pilates	5-6pm and on YouTube	Amie Hawker	07738 449245
Tai Chi	Monday's at 10.30am	Brian Wooding	01985 213474
Wives Group	730pm 1st Wednesday of the month	Marlene Pike Sylvia Preston	01380 870272 01225 765858
WI	Fourth Wednesday of the Month	Holly Westlake	01225 755866
Coffee Mornings	Fridays 10.30 to Noon	Margaret Workman	01225 766998
Zen Judo Classes	Age 8+ Village Hall 7.00-9 Fridays.	Colin Delve	colin.delve@dano
Moo Music	10 to 10.40 & 10.50 to 11.20	Nicola	07534799276
Taekwondo	Fridays 4.20 to 5.00 & 5.00 to 5.45	Nick	07921855900

TO BE RESUMED WHEN RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED

