



Safeguarding our village's future

Around **Ashton Hayes**

Newsletter from Ashton Hayes Parish Council



April 2009

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Ashton Hayes Parish Council is looking for a candidate to replace Councillor Julian Auckland-Lewis 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 11th May 2009. The Parish Council meets eleven times per year usually on the first Monday of every month (apart from Bank holidays and 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 Friday 17th April 2009.

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

COMMUNITY SHOP

Plans to provide a community run shop alongside the post office in the premises currently occupied by the village shop are progressing. A business plan, which outlines the project, has been developed and is available to view on the Parish Council website, (www.ashtonhayespc.co.uk/about-the-shop-project). This is a working document and will be updated regularly. If you don't have access to the internet and would like to view a copy, contact Lisa Allman on 01829 751043.

To set up the community shop, funds of around £30,000 will be required. Whilst the steering committee hopes to raise around half of this from grant funding, we also aim to raise half from the village. A questionnaire asking for pledges of support was recently distributed to all residents in Ashton and Mouldsworth. Responses have been received from about a quarter of households so far, and pledges of around £7500 made. If you haven't yet returned your form to the shop, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped distribute the questionnaire.

A 60/70s Disco was held on March 14th in the WI hall. It was a great evening that also managed to raise £450 for the project. This will allow the project to register as an Industrial And Provident Society. Thanks to all who attended.

If you have any questions or would like to join the steering group please contact Lisa on the number above or email to ljallman@btinternet.com

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

This update will be quite short as we are very near the end of the current phase. It is hoped that the plan will be published before the end of May, and the Parish Plan Steering Group has sent the draft document to the person who has volunteered to design the final version. Once this process is complete the plan will be presented to the Parish Council, then sent for printing and distribution around the parish..

Any residents wishing to get involved with the next stage of the process, overseeing the implementation of the plan, should contact Paul Varey on paul@varey.demon.co.uk or by telephone (759472). And, finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has given their time to help the Parish Plan groups in any way whatsoever. We have had over 40 residents working on this document at various stages. As always, if you have any questions please do get in touch.

WASTE COLLECTION – NEW BINS FOR OLD

The new Waste Collection Service is due to start in June, and our existing Brown bins, which we now use for garden waste, are to be used instead for non-recyclable household waste, which we currently leave out in black bags. If we like, we can still use black bags to hold the rubbish, but when the change over happens in June, these must be put in the Brown bin which will be emptied every Tuesday.

We will have a new Green bin for garden waste, which will be emptied every other Tuesday.

We will have a new Blue bin for all the recyclable items which we currently put into the green and red bags. All these items should now be put, without bags, into the new Blue bin. New technology has been installed at the Materials Reclamation Facility to separate the paper, plastics etc after collection. Also, there is a caddy within the Blue bin for the glass bottles and jars (and batteries in a poly bag) which we currently put in the white bag, but if there isn't enough room in the caddy the white bag can still be used. The Blue bin is also emptied every other Tuesday; clearly the one when the Green bin isn't emptied.

A new calendar and information pack are to be sent to all households before the new service starts.

GOING CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT

Public meeting

We hope to hold our 2009 public meeting at the School on Thursday 30 April at 7:30pm to present our report and film of the 1-year microgrid study; and outline future projects. We also plan to have supporter organisations represented, including the newly formed non-for-profit 'Leapfrog', which is providing free legal and financial support to help establish a Community Organisation for Renewable Energy - (CORE). Leapfrog has also offered support on legal issues relating to the Community Shop development.

Awareness raising on climate change

Members of the community continue to put in time on the project including giving talks to a range of audiences, most recently at the launch of the Cragg Valley Carbon Neutral project in West Yorkshire. Over the past three years we've given over 100 such talks and the invites keep coming in. We have just been invited to twin our community with people on Norway's Lofoten Islands! We are also being asked if any family would like to be featured on a documentary on community living by Twenty Twenty Television. If you would like your family to be on television, and don't mind intrusive TV cameras for 2 weeks, just email us at clerk@ashtonhayespc.co.uk

4th Annual Household Carbon Footprint Survey

Students from the University of Chester will be in the village from approx. 14th May to 5th June to carry out this year's carbon footprint survey. They will be distributing a leaflet to every household with a photo - graph of themselves and an indication of when they will call with the survey forms. We hope to offer a web-based form this year for those that prefer to complete the survey online - details on the students' leaflet. The cold winter means we may all have used our heating systems more, so it will be particularly helpful if you have your gas, oil etc consumption figures handy as well your electricity bills.

ASHTON HAYES WEB SITE

Thanks to the efforts of Parish Councillor Garry Charnock, a combined Parish Council/Community web site has recently been launched at 'www.ashtonhayespc.co.uk'.

The site already holds a wealth of information about current (and recent) Parish Council related activities. There are news items about the new Unitary Council (Cheshire West and Chester) which takes over on April 1st, and also the new waste collection system, about which there is an article in this letter. Agendas and Parish Council minutes are on the site, and there is a reports section including contributions from the Parish Plan, Going Carbon Neutral Project and the Community Shop Focus Group.

Links to recreational groups such as the Cricket Club and Theatre Club are now in place, and other groups are welcome to add their links. Via the links you can also see films made about our village, including the view from the air taken via a model aeroplane!. Do have a look. There's plenty to see.

RECREATIONAL FIELD

Since the last newsletter was distributed permission has been granted for Change of Use to Recreational Purposes for the field in Ashton Lane. At the beginning of December the two drop-in sessions advertised

in Around Ashton were well attended and the majority response was enthusiastically in favour of moving forward with the project. Land purchase in this type of situation is rarely straight forward, but negotiations have been continuing and it is hoped that further progress can be reported soon, but, unfortunately, not in time to catch this edition. To keep up to date please go to our new web site which is described in the previous article, or attend the Parish Council meetings. Next meeting Monday April 20th .

SCHOOL REPORT

Comic Relief and Daffodil Day Congratulations are due to the Children's Committee and all the children who helped to make this day such a success and raised £280.

PTFA news

- Sponsored Walk This will take place on Sunday April 26th, but details still to follow.
- Summer events Ashton Hayes School PTFA would love you to support two summer events. The popular **Scarecrow Trail** is back again; from June 13th to June 27th (applications open May 18th). Our **HeyDay** event is on June 27th and has 'Fairground' as the theme. So, a 'Fairground' themed scarecrow would be fantastic, or simply be creative and make an amazing scarecrow based on your own ideas.

Parking The school continues to receive complaints from neighbours and local residents with regard to dangerous parking and lack of supervision by parents as they drop off and collect children. If you live in, or close to, the village, then when you are taking your children to and from school, by far the safest and most sensible place to park your car is in your driveway or possibly outside your house.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

This is an on going problem, and the Police and Community Wardens are making regular visits. They do need to be alerted when problems arise and residents need to log full details of what they observe. Information can be kept confidential, but is essential for building up a case. 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.

SOME LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Ashton Hayes Baby and Toddler Group

We meet every Tuesday morning (during term time) from 10:30 to 11:45am in the Guild Room (behind the vicarage!). Bumps, babes, toddlers with mums, dads, grans are all very welcome! Refreshments served and great company guaranteed!
Ring Ros on 752108 for more details.

Football Club

Ashton Lions Football Club is a locally run club with an age range from the young to the not so young! We play in the local adult Saturday football league. Everyone is welcomed to join us, whether looking to play competitive football or just to enjoy training and kick about with friends.

Contact: Derick Forsyth 01829 759254 for further details

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club again has a full fixture list of Sunday matches which this year includes a tour to play at Chalfont's St Peter near Windsor. The Sunday matches start at the end of April.

Midweek fixtures start in early May and home games are played on Tuesday evenings. Last season, the mid-week team finished 4th in Division 1 of the Chester and North Wales league, and hope to improve on that this year.

New (and old) players are always welcome. Please contact Martin Bolton (Captain) on 01829 752092 or Robert Lewis (Secretary) on 01829 751541.

Gardening Club

This year's programme began in February with an interesting talk by Peter Mackay on 'Gardening and the Environment'. It was a real eye opener and certainly gave everyone present food for thought with regard to best practices if we want to be truly 'green' gardeners.

In March, Sheena Hesketh gave a fascinating talk with slides on 'Plants in Bhutan'. There was an almost mystical atmosphere about the evening and great admiration for the very strenuous efforts needed to achieve the objectives of her quest. Our next talk, at 8.00pm on April 21st at the WI hall, is by Jenny Hendy on introducing 'Theatre into the Garden'.

We are always looking for new members despite our numbers having increased year on year over the last five, and there are several reasons for joining us which include:

A 10% discount on purchases at Okell's gardening centre, excellent talks and slide shows with free tea and biscuits, and 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

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!!!

Do you love to sing but lack confidence and don't dare to join in with others? Come to a one-day workshop, have fun, gain confidence and develop your skills. Led by Beth Hill the workshop is for anyone with an interest in music and singing, even if you think you can't sing. During the day you will learn to use your voice and develop its quality. You will sing with other members of the group in a friendly, relaxed environment. You do not need to read music or be able to play an instrument to benefit. There are no age limits. By the end of the day you will be surprised by your own talent!

This event is on Saturday 25th April 10am – 4pm Ashton Hayes Parish Rooms
Cost: £25 (£15 concessions) All proceeds go towards "Railway Children" working with street children around the world www.railwaychildren.org.uk
Tea, coffee and refreshments provided. Please bring your own lunch.

Phone Margaret Garman 01829 751557 for more details and to book your place.

Scouts

Ashton Scouts continues to flourish. Twelve scouts succeeded in gaining the Scouting "adventure" challenge award in the last 6 months and these badges were recently awarded. A number of individual activity badges have also been achieved and members recently took part in a hi tech Easter Egg Hunt using hand held GPS navigation systems to locate clues. Soon, young people from Ashton Scouts will take part in the Cheshire Scouts annual Cheshire Hike weekend hiking and camping competition.

Activities being planned from Easter to Summer will include, amongst other things, Kayaking, Rafting, Camping opportunities and Bell Boating. Scouts will also be working towards a number of Scouting challenges while having fun. Scouts are open to all young people between the ages of 10½ and 14. Links are available for the older youngsters to access Explorer Scouting.

For further information on Scouting in Ashton contact Alan Reay - Scouter in Charge on 01829 751257 or any troop leader. On line look at www.scoutbase.org.uk or www.chesterscouts.org.uk

List of Parish Councillors

Garry Charnock	01829 752714	garry@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Hugo Deynem	01829 751830	hugo@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Richard Holland	01829 751761	richard@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Dave Lee	01829 752642	dave@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Trevor Scadeng	01829 751770	trevor@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Lucinda Strudwick	01829 751389	lu@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Diane Stubbs	01829 751718	diane@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Pauline Tilley (Chair)	01829 751524	pauline@ashtonhayespc.co.uk
Andrea Thwaite (Clerk)	01244 336662	clerk@ashtonhayespc.co.uk

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