



## **NEWSLETTER 2 - 2023/2024 AUTUMN**

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## **Christmas Lights 2023**



The Ashover Parish Christmas Light Switch on is back again for 2023.

Initially held to celebrate the visit of Prince Charles' in 2006, this annual tradition continues with Charles now on the throne, our illustrious King!

Ashover Parish looks forward to welcoming old and new faces to sing carols along with the Village Choir and Ashover Brass Band and if you're lucky (and of course been good this year) you'll get to see Santa Claus himself on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 5.00pm outside the Bassett Rooms.

We couldn't do the event without the amazing volunteers to keep our children safe, so if you are able to help out on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, please do not hesitate to contact Sara Atkinson our Parish Clerk on (01246) 863018 or email [parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk) Here's to a wonderful Ashover Parish Light Switch on to start Christmas off with joy and laughter.

## **Co-opted Parish Councillor**



At the July 2023 Parish Council Meeting, Members co-opted Edward Hayward onto the council to fill the vacancy left by William Armitage. Members and the Clerk look forward to working with Councillor Hayward, who has already attended Councillor and Code of Conduct Training.

## **Climate Change Working Group**

The Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group held on 28/09/2023 were approved. Highlights are the 'wildlife corridor' initiative, which is being progressed with landowners, and plans to engage with the Primary School on environmental projects.

The group continues to work with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and DCC who are progressing their own initiative under the 'Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy'.

## **Future Parish Events**



On the horizon for next year is Remembering D-Day 80 years on: 6 June 2024. This marks 80 years since the D-Day landings, the largest amphibious operation in history, which marked the beginning of the liberation of France and Western Europe. Initiatives to mark the occasion will be developed in the coming months.

## **Ashover's own National Treasure**

...hangs up her green and yellow bunting for the last time

Rosemary Early, Ashover's own National Treasure, has decided it is time to step down from organising and running Ashover's marvellous May Day celebrations.

Way back in 1996, Ashover Parish Church decided to have a "Celebration of Life" year. This included a different event each month to celebrate life and our wonderful community. Most of these are lost in the mists of time, one or two carried on for a few years, however the Parish Pantomime, Parish Party and The May Day Celebrations still exist in our Parish Calendar, since those days. These have both been organised unstintingly by Rosemary, backed by Ashover Church, for the benefit of our community. This has involved a huge amount of work, organisation, time and dedication each year and perseverance to drum up the help required to make them the huge successes they are today. It is therefore understandable that Rosemary has decided to hang up the green and yellow bunting of May Day for the final time.

May Day brings a huge amount of enjoyment to both Ashover parish residents and the hundreds of people who travel from far and wide to attend. We have had dripping wet, misty foggy, freezing cold, and boiling hot May Days, where we get to chat, meet friends, have a pint, an ice cream or a bacon cob. In rain or shine, excited children spend the day in the freedom of being able to wander up and down Church Street, spending their pocket money on the stalls and eating way too many sweets, watching the fabulous May Day parade in awe, hoping and wishing that one year they will get to be crowned May King or Queen. Surely this is what living in a rural parish is all about.

Local charities have benefitted from decades of fundraising. The money raised has run into many £1000s of pounds. For just one example, in 2023, from the catering provided by the WI in the Bassett Rooms £500 each was donated both to Ashgate Hospice and Clay Cross Food Bank.

Rosemary, we can only thank you as a community for all the commitment and enthusiasm you have put into Ashover's May Day for almost 30 years, not to mention the blood sweat and tears, you will be truly missed at the helm!

However, this is not the end for May Day .....

### **May Day 2024**

As you may have heard, after many years of hard work, Rosemary Early has decided it is time to step down from organising May Day.

A few Ashover parish residents, backed by Ashover Church, thought that May Day would be missed by too many people and also local charities would lose out on a significant amount of fundraising if it were not to happen again. A small group has met and would like to continue the success of May Day.

The established framework of the day, being a road closure, stalls, the May Queen and King parade and fun run can all be built on, so any ideas for entertainment and events will be gratefully received.

To see if we as a community can go ahead with Mayday, then practical help to set the event up on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> is invaluable and indeed Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> (May day itself) 2024 is also much needed.

So, if you have an idea that you like to see happen at May Day, or indeed are able to help for an hour or so on any of the 3 days or simply just want to hear more about the proposed plans, please come along to have your say.

May Day is a community event, run by the community, so it can't continue without all our help.

**There will be a short Open Meeting to discuss May Day 2024 in the Bassett Rooms on Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.**

### **Finance Working Group Meeting and Precept 2024/2025**

Having deliberated the budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025, an anticipated realistic income figure of £11,090.00 set against an anticipated expenditure figure of £93,170.00 plus earmarked reserves of £12,307.00, produced an annual Precept figure for 2024/2025 of £94,387.00. This represented an increase of £4,632.00 (5.2%) on 2023/2024. The proposed Precept figure for 2024/2025 of £94,387.00 has now been put out to Public Consultation via the Parish Council website and main notice board.

### **River Amber**

The Parish Council has continued to correspond with Lee Rowley MP on the issue of pollution in the river Amber and two updates were discussed.

#### **Environment Agency (EA) report**

For some months, sondes (water sampling kit) have been in place upstream of Kelstedge and the latest results from EA have shown pollution from human activity during rainfall and non-rainfall periods. This data is being used to direct where the EA will carry out regulatory inspections this year to target sources of pollution in the area.

We have asked the EA for timelines and next steps if pollutants are found at these sites during upcoming inspections.

### Updates from Severn Trent.

Through Lee Rowley, the Parish Council has been expressing frustration at the quality and frequency of updates from Severn Trent. The recent, detailed update from their CEO, Liv Garfield, has been welcome and we have asked that this turns into a more regular dialogue. To this end, we now have designated points of contact within Severn Trent but in providing this information they have made the point that the significant investment decisions of particular interest to our parish will not be made until the New Year.

### **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS)**

The PC agreed to go ahead with the purchase and installation of two SIDs, situated in Kelstedge for a 12 month trial subject and grant support has been obtained from the Police & Crime Commissioner and a licence from highways has been granted.

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is in the process of installing poles at Kelstedge and two SIDs will be installed once this work has been completed. This will enable us to obtain data on vehicles travelling in both directions and whilst we hope to have some reduction in speed through the residential area, we also hope to be able to demonstrate the need for additional measures to reduce speeds on the A632 and provide a safer environment for all our residents.

### **Public Meeting**

During the September Parish Council meeting it was agreed there should be a further public meeting on safety along the A632 and pollution in the river Amber and the timing of this was discussed again at the October Parish Council meeting.

Whilst public pressure for an early meeting was recognised it was agreed that scheduling it for Spring 2024 was likely to be optimal. This is because the significance for these organisations (DCC and Severn Trent) is the potential for substantial investment and it will clearly be hard data which drives their decision-making. By Spring next year data from Severn Trent and the Environment Agency in relation to the river Amber should be available. Similarly, data from the Speed Indicator Devices on the A632 would be available, as should the results of DCC's programme for safety improvements.

### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Articles on five war graves have been submitted to 'Wings' magazine and also posted on the Parish Council news page, facebook and on the village facebook. In case you missed any of these, please follow the links below to find out more:-

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2023/07/commonwealth-war-graves-commission-cwgc>

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2023/08/cwgc-graves-in-ashover-driver-william-booker-and-signalman-john-millward>

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2023/08/cwgc-graves-in-ashover-private-joseph-harold-king>

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2023/07/gwgc-graves-in-ashover-air-mechanic-jim-bunting>

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2023/07/cwgc-graves-in-ashover-leading-seaman-william-adlington>

## Uppertown Social Centre – Events

Sat. 18th November 7pm for 8pm	<b>Jason Dale</b> Elvis - Cash - Lewis	£14.00 incl supper
Sat. 2nd December 9am until 2:30pm	<b>Christmas Market</b> Seasonal Food Drink & Gifts on sale Dogs Welcome	Free Entry Food & Drinks available.
Sat. 9th December 7pm for 8pm	<b>Pat Jordan &amp; Finians Rainbow</b> Irish & Dance Music	£14.00 incl supper

**Subject to alteration without notice.**  
**To book tickets in advance ring Eddie on 07966 154798**  
**[www.uppertown.org](http://www.uppertown.org)**

### Dark Skies

Did you know that Ashover Parish is a 'Dark Skies' area? This means that any plans for development in the parish are considered for any potential impact on our local beautiful dark skies. Darkness at night is one of the key characteristics of rural areas and there is some concern that it is being diminished by light pollution. The Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) has produced detailed maps, showing how much light is spilling up into Britain's night sky. Ashover Parish includes areas of relatively dark skies which is an inherent part of its rural character, its tranquillity and important for nature conservation.

Night-time light pollution is a particular concern for wildlife and in particular, some light sensitive species. In Ashover, this includes the three species of bat and glow worms that have been recorded at a number of locations.

Outdoor lighting can give rise to a number of different lighting pollution types. They are: -

- Sky glow – the orange glow we see around urban areas caused by a scattering of artificial lighting by dust particles and water droplets in the sky;
- Glare – the uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against a darker background; and
- Light Nuisance – light spilling beyond the boundary of the property on which a light is located.

The Ashover Parish Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that the existing dark skies outside of the main settlements are protected and that new developments do not increase light spillage, which benefits our wildlife and helps to preserve the rural character of our parish.

We would appreciate it if local residents could be mindful of the amount of exterior lighting used around their properties. Where it is deemed necessary to have outdoor lighting residents should consider fitting motion sensors and/or lighting that isn't overly bright. Research has shown that motion-activated lighting is more effective as a deterrent than lighting that is left on constantly, and of course saves money on electricity bills as well as being less environmentally damaging.

### **Winter Maintenance Guidance**

Your Parish Council owns and fills a total of 37 grit bins sited around the parish and undertakes winter maintenance of the Milken Lane Car Park. ***The salt is supplied for use on the highway adjacent the bin and if you witness large amounts being taken for personal use, please contact the Police.***

For advice on keeping warm this winter and fuel bills, follow the link below:-

[Health & Wellbeing](#)

For the latest on snow conditions and where to get help etc. follow the link below:-

[Snow Conditions](#)

### **Book Swap**

The book swap in the Information Point on Moor Road is proving popular and we hope everyone makes full use of the facility – Take a Book and Leave a Book.

### **Defibrillators**

For information about the location of defibrillators around Ashover Parish and how they work, please follow the link below:-

[Defibrillators](#)

### **Local Walks**

To find walks around the Ashover parish, please follow the link below:-

[Walks Around Ashover Parish](#)

### **Minutes, News and more...**

To read Parish Council Minutes, see news items on road closures, Police information, Derbyshire Alert and County and District Council messages and much more, visit the Parish Council website:-

[www.ashover-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk)

### **Cemetery**

Please ensure that dogs are kept on a leash at all times whilst walking through the cemetery. For further information on Public Space Protection Orders please visit:-

<https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/environmental-health/animals-and-pests/dog-management-pspo>

## ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS

- **John Cook** (07803 230702)  
Farhill House, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BB
- **James Daykin** (07791 340214)  
Eastwood Cottage, Ashover Road, Littlemoor S45 0BL
- **Steve Dronfield** (01246) 590721  
Willow Tree Farm, Hunger Hill Lane, Stonedge S45 0LP
- **Rosemary Early** (01246) 590738  
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Richard Fidler** (01246) 590155 (**Vice-Chairman**)  
Porthlea, Alton Lane, Littlemoor S45 0BE
- **Edward Hayward** (07793 407911)  
62 Malthouse Lane, Ashover S45 0AL
- **Lucy Hunter-Bott** (07976 733607)  
Old Bank House, Butts Road, Ashover S45 0AX
- **Chris Miller** (01246) 590253  
Hill House, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BU
- **Mike Thomas** (07885 201296)  
Touchstone, Chapel Hill, Ashover S45 0AT
- **Ed Willmot** (01246) 590260 (**Chairman**)  
The Pines, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BZ

### Parish Clerk

- Parish Clerk/Burial Clerk: Sara Atkinson  
Tel (01246) 863018  
E-Mail parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk  
Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BA

### District and County Councillors

- **North East Derbyshire District Councillor – Helen Wetherall** (07429 365009)  
Woodside, Ashover Road, Ashover S45 0EU
- **Derbyshire County Councillor – Barry Lewis** (01773) 830871  
2 King George St, Wessington S55 6DZ

### USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

**Derbyshire County Council** – 01629 580000 or 01629 533190

**North East Derbyshire District Council** - 01246 231111

**Police – NON-URGENT** calls to report crime, anti-social behaviour, non-violent crime or general information: 101

**Please note:** You **MUST** continue to use 999 where a crime is in progress, for serious crime or where violence is being used.

**Citizens Advice** – Providing consumer advice, free of charge, on a range of issues or complaints.  
Website: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) Tel. 08454 040506

[www.ashover-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk)