



## NEWSLETTER 3 - 2023/2024 WINTER

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### Remembrance Sunday – 12 November 2023



Councillor Ed Willmot laid a Poppy Wreath on the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council and Ashover Parish following an emotional and heartfelt service in All Saints Church led by the Reverend Dr Peter Bold when the Choir sang and Ashover Brass Band played.

Ashover Parish Council displayed poppies around the parish to mark the Remembrance.



At the centenary marking the end of WW1, Ashover Tree Group was encouraged by the Parish Council to come up with a fitting tribute to commemorate those who lost their lives in the 1914 – 1918 war.



In response, the tree group planted 3 beech trees in separate locations overlooking the village. This 'Centenary Triangle' of trees is located in Milltown (Holestone), Uppertown (Wirestone Lane) and just outside the Fabric boundary. The tree near the Fabric is clearly flourishing, as our recent picture shows.'



### **Christmas Lights 2023**



On Sunday December 3rd the Parish of Ashover gathered outside the Basset Rooms, singing carols with Ashover Brass Band and the Choir, to observe the parish tree bursting into light, and most importantly, the children had the opportunity to meet a very special person!

This year was even more magical with the addition of the snow, but with snow comes issues, however we managed to all come together to make sure the show still went on. A special mention must be given to our Rector, Reverend Peter Bold, with our Town Crier snowed in, Peter stepped in at the last minute and became our MC for the event.

This year wasn't just the turning on of the lights, it was an opportunity for the parish council to publicly thank our outgoing town crier Merrick Bull. He was presented with an engraved tankard, to commemorate the years of service, laughter, charm and entertainment that he has given to our parish.

Thanks once again goes to Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd for supporting the event with the purchase of the Christmas Tree. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, each and every child got to spend time with Father Christmas in the beautiful, and incredibly atmospheric grotto, and told him what they wanted to open on Christmas morning.

A huge thanks goes out to all the volunteers, who gave their time to set up the event, without all those people it would not be possible.

.....and lastly a big thanks goes to Father Christmas who takes time out of his busy schedule to visit at this time each year.

## **River Amber**

In our last Quarterly Newsletter, we gave an update on the Environment Agency's (EA's) initial water sampling results and described how we now have additional points of contact in Severn Trent.

In the latest update from EA they have said arising from their recent test results they will be visiting agricultural premises in this financial year. In our reply, we observed that presumably this would include focus on Uppertown as the most recent sonde sampling had been positioned upstream of Kelstedge. With this in mind, we asked they take into account that the Uppertown community are reliant on septic tank installations which clearly may have a potential impact on local water quality in the Amber. Dependent on the sampling results we've suggested they flag any issues with Severn Trent so the potential need for an upgrade of the community's infrastructure is reflected in Severn Trent's investment decisions.

These investment options won't be debated until the New Year and we'll share further updates as we get them.

## **Climate Change Working Group – update**

In recent years there has been increasing focus on Climate issues and in mid-2020, with encouragement from Ashover Parish Council, a Climate Change working group was formed. This group, chaired by Lucy Hunter-Bott, now has 11 members and the main focus has been on:

- Building efficiency, Utilities, Waste
- Outdoor things & biodiversity

On building related matters there was limited scope to influence change as the Parish Council's direct control is limited to the public toilets. Nevertheless, we're now collaborating with the Parish Hall and the Bassett Rooms to share knowledge and explore scope for climate friendly changes.

In January 2024 the provisions of the Environment Acts 2021/2023 came into force. Briefly, the aim is to "restore nature and improve the environmental quality of the air, our waters and our land". It's good that The Climate Change Group's existing workstreams on 'Outdoor things' align with the new Acts and the group benefits from an existing dialogue with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) for advice and coaching and with NEDDC who have recently recruited specialists to manage their obligations under the new act.

Specific, local initiatives by the group include:

- ❖ A wildlife corridor – where members of the group are planning on-site meetings with landowners and develop ideas for wildlife/fauna enhancement.
- ❖ Engagement with the school – to explore potential for projects and how the group might help with planning and funding
- ❖ Parish Common Land - Identify re-wilding potential in partnership with DWT.
- ❖ 'Living roofs' – explore the feasibility and cost of fitting them to our bus shelters.

So, lots to do and we'll provide progress updates in the coming months!

## 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](#)

## Local Walks

All year round, there are Tuesday morning walks at 9.30 a.m. from the post box opposite the post office. Usually 2/3 hours on Ashover paths.

During summer months, when walkers can get to 'The Poets' for the quiz at nine (if they want), a walk leaves from opposite the post office at 6.30 p.m. Again, on Ashover paths.

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

[Walks Around Ashover Parish](#)

## Defibrillators

Defibrillators – saving life.

A defibrillator is a device that gives a jolt of energy to the heart. It helps get the heart beating again when someone is in cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped.

### Locations of defibrillators

Ashover Parish Council has installed six defibrillators at the following locations:-



Outside Uppertown Social Centre

Outside the medical centre in Ashover

In the red kiosk at Alton In the red kiosk at Littlemoor

On the side of The Miners Arms, Milltown

On the side of The Kelstedge Inn, Kelstedge

There's also a defibrillator sited at the Red Lion/Peak Edge Hotel, Darley Road, Stonedger.

### Business owners

Business owners who have a defibrillator are encouraged to register their unit with 'The Circuit', the national defibrillator network, such that the location of units available may be identified to the East Midlands Ambulance Service in an emergency. For more information please follow this link: <https://www.thecircuit.uk/>

### How to use a defibrillator

If in an emergency you need to use one of the defibrillators then dial 999 and you will be given the code to the cabinet and further instructions.

Anyone can use a defibrillator. You do not need training. Once you turn it on, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions.

If you would like to know more about how the defibrillators work, there's a guide on the Ashover Parish Council web-site which you can find by following this link:

<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/uploads/ipad-sp1-in-use-quick-reference-guide-a4-for-web.pdf>.

Alternatively you could watch a training video by a paramedic from London Heart on this link: <https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5>

## Uppertown Social Centre – Events

**Uppertown Social Centre**  
A Registered Charity (Number 1023876)  
Uppertown, Ashover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 0JF



**Events for 2024**

Sat. 3rd February 7pm for 8pm	<b>Ged/Dave &amp; Ramshackle</b> Easy Listening	£10.00 incl supper
Sat. 2nd March 7pm for 8pm	<b>Fran and Jono</b> Acoustic Duo	£10.00 incl supper
Sat. 16th March 7pm for 8pm	<b>Murphy's Marbles</b> Folk and Irish	£15.00 incl supper
Sat. 6th April	<b>Easter Family Night</b> Fun Night for all Ages inc Kids Disco	T.B.A.
Sat. 27th April 7pm for 8pm	<b>Take the Seven</b> 90's and Rock	£13.00 incl supper
Sat. 18th May 7pm for 8pm	<b>Dolby Gang</b> Country Music	£13.00 incl supper
Sat. 15th June 7pm for 8pm	<b>The Haleys</b> Country and 50's	£15.00 incl supper

**Subject to alteration without notice.**

To book tickets in advance ring **Eddie on 07966 154798**  
[www.uppertown.org](http://www.uppertown.org)

7th December 2022

For further information on Uppertown Social Centre, visit [www.uppertown.org](http://www.uppertown.org)

## Derbyshire County Council News

### Savings proposals announced

We've announced a number of proposals which, if agreed, could save the council millions of pounds and support the setting of a balanced budget.



In common with authorities across the country, we are facing budgetary pressures far greater than experienced before, due to factors beyond our control. These include dealing with higher than anticipated inflation and higher prices for fuel, energy and materials, meeting the cost of the national pay award set nationally but met locally, and the continued unprecedented increase in demand for vital adults' and children's social care services.

As well as a current forecast overspend for 2023-24 of £33m, there's a predicted shortfall of £39.5m in our budget for the year ahead (2024-25) which has resulted in the savings proposals being put forward.

The announcement earlier this week and [accompanying report](#) which will be considered by our Cabinet on 11 January, sets out how we intend to make savings and set a balanced budget for 2024-25. The report includes proposals that will be subject to our Scrutiny process, and the proposals will be considered by the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources, later this month (22 Jan 2024) before being considered further by Cabinet.

Announcing the report, County Council Leader Councillor Barry Lewis and Deputy Leader Councillor Simon Spencer said they had been left with no choice but to put forward the raft of multi-million-pound savings proposals which, if agreed, would affect many services used by thousands of Derbyshire residents.

All the proposals will be subject to close scrutiny and no decisions have yet been made. Any proposal which could potentially affect residents will be subject to public engagement and or full public consultation where appropriate.

### Next steps for County Hall

We're considering redeveloping our headquarters at County Hall in Matlock.

After successfully engaging with developers and hotel operators, and working with specialist architects HLM Architects and Real estate works over the past year, a preferred option for the whole County Hall complex has been developed, which includes:

- turning the south block of County Hall and the Winter Gardens into a hotel and events venue
- creating new homes in the north block and the south west car park
- building a new, low carbon office on the site to accommodate up to 500 council employees.



During the summer of 2023 expressions of interest were sought from developers, hotel operators and others for their ideas on options for the future of the historic complex of buildings, and the information gained has been used to develop an outline business case, which our Cabinet is set to consider on 11 January.

Our overriding objective is to deliver the best outcome for the long-term use of the complex so that it contributes to the vitality of the town of Matlock and makes a significant ongoing contribution to the economy of the area.

If the proposals are approved work will continue over the coming months and years to develop the project.

### 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. Sometimes books are left spilling over the shelving and on the floor, making access difficult for users. Please only leave books when space is available on the shelving – Take a Book and Leave a Book.

### 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)

### Finally

Please also ensure that dogs are kept on a leash at all times whilst walking through the cemetery. This is a legal requirement under the North East Derbyshire District Council's 'Public Space Protection Order' (PSPO); for further details, follow the link below:-

<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](mailto: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)