

Late April and early May usually sees the start of the cricket season, heralding the arrival of summer. This year is, of course, completely different, with all recreational cricket in the UK currently suspended as part of the government's restrictions to combat Covid19.

Even during the current restrictions, the cricket ground at Ashorne remains a beautiful and serene place and an ideal place for a socially distanced walk on the footpath which traverses the field.

As you take your daily exercise there, you may have seen the construction activities to the veranda and bridge around our pavilion. During the winter severe flooding and associated debris caused such damage to both, that we had no choice but to replace what survived with new construction. We have also taken the opportunity to raise the height slightly, in order to improve disabled access into the pavilion itself.

These works commenced in February, with 'work parties' involving club members, which soon reduced to 2 members, due to the lockdown. These 2 are father and son from the same household; the works were deemed as necessary as they constituted a significant hazard if left unfinished. Dave and James have worked really hard on this project over the past few weeks. Now anyone wishing to sit on the new veranda and enjoy the beautiful view up the ground, is more than welcome to do so.

Our ground has continued to be maintained by our two groundsmen, Chris and Steve. They too, have been carrying out their works in compliance with Government and England and Wales Cricket Board advice – including the recent creation of a netted and segregated area for cricket practice. This has been done solely to comply with recent guidance associated with the reduction in lockdown measures.

We were extremely lucky in being able to secure some significant and generous sponsorship towards the cost of the new veranda, courtesy of Daemon

Fire Ltd, but as we are not currently able to play, we have no weekly match fees being collected and our usual fund-raising streams have been detrimentally affected by 'lockdown'. Accordingly and with the support and encouragement of the Warwickshire Cricket Board, we have established a Crowd Funding page for the Club and are now appealing to the wider community for any financial assistance that anyone may wish to offer, in order to help us fund the completion of the veranda works and also to aid the general running costs of the Club for the summer.

Whilst we recognise that presently, times are difficult for everyone, if anyone is in such a position that they are able to make a small donation towards the upkeep of the Club, until such times as we can commence our regular fund-raising, then any such gesture will be extremely welcome and most gratefully received. Please view our funding page and complete as directed, at:

<https://www.spacehive.com/ashornecc>

Hopefully, at some point later in the summer, cricket will be a permitted activity and the club can return to playing. Although a small Club, we are a particularly friendly organisation and we are always on the lookout for new players and members of all ages and abilities. We have a Saturday XI which was promoted from Division 3 of the Cotswold Hills League at the end of last season; a thriving Sunday XI which plays Sunday afternoon friendly fixtures and additionally a Midweek XI which competes successfully in the Leamington and District Midweek 20/20 competition – reaching Finals day in both the 2018 and 2020 seasons.

Anyone interested in joining the Club should contact Mark Freeman on 07958 830339 in the first instance and he will be happy to furnish you with further information about practice sessions, other Club contact details, etc.

Mark Freeman (A&MMCC Club Secretary)

Deadline for next issue is September 15th. Please send items for inclusion to Christine Thornton, 1 The Green (Tel 651436) or Judy Cooper, High Paddock (Tel 651315). You are welcome to send items by email or on disc, as well as on paper. Email: jinandchris@googlemail.com or judycooper21@btinternet.com

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 148: JULY 2020

THE VILLAGE HALL

Good news at last!

Thank you to everybody who has contributed towards the fund to replace the roof on the village hall.

There have been some lovely events like the plant sale, cake sale, VE Day celebration, Asho-Glasto etc which have not only brightened up life during lockdown but contributed fantastic amounts to the fund. The Buy- a-Tile scheme has also been a wonderful success and, thanks to all these efforts, plus various grants and with the help of some of our own funds, we are now in a position to move forward.

We have received quotations from 3 roofing firms to complete the work and we are delighted to announce that we have chosen a roofing contractor who we hope should be starting work in September. We understand that the work will take 3 weeks and therefore, before the winter the hall will be watertight and once again a valuable local amenity

We are hoping to be able to reopen the village hall, albeit subject to ongoing COVID19 restrictions, before too long



once the toilets are finally finished and we have had the required deep clean.

NEW TO YOU SALE

A great selection of clothes, household goods, etc for sale with proceeds to the Village Hall Roof Fund.

Plus home-made cake stall

1st August 2020 from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall car park and on the Village Green, following social distancing guidelines and with a one way system in operation!

If anyone has anything to donate and/or would like to run a stall, please contact Helen Oakley asap:

The Bothy, Ashorne Tel 01926 651408
Email helen.anne.oakley@gmail.com

If anyone would be prepared to volunteer to bake a cake, that would be much appreciated too!

PARISH CLERK'S UPDATE

Hello. My name is Beverley Thorpe and I have held the position of Parish Clerk since April. Once we are restored to 'normal' times I look forward to meeting you at Parish Council meetings or possibly even welcoming you as a new Councillor!

For obvious reasons, the Council has not physically met since I started my role, but we did have a virtual meeting on 1 July. All members of the Council were present, but we had no members of the public. The minutes are available for you to read on our website and the two noticeboards in the parish.

It has been a strange induction for me as the Clerk. I had a handover with the outgoing Clerk, Cat Price, in a car park in March and since then have slowly picked up where she left off. I am grateful to the support of the Councillors at this strange time.

I am pleased to be able to give an update on the following matters:

- Clock Tower – despite the lockdown, Councillor Bolton has worked with several contractors to see the Clock Tower repaired and restored.
- The stile at the top of Holloway was speedily repaired by the landowner once reported to him.
- Western Power have been out and cut back trees and saplings in Holloway to make sure that there is no interference with the power lines.

Mulch and wood has been left for residents to collect and use if they so wish.

- Bank account – the handover of finances was not as straight forward as I would have liked. Gaining access to a bank account has many hoops to jump through and was made even harder not being able to visit a bank. I am pleased to report however that we now have all the right tools and permissions in place. Hopefully, we will have no issues making payments moving forward. Please note that our processes mean that we will endeavour to pay invoices received by month end at the end of the first week of the month.
- The replacement of the water meter at the allotments continues to be a challenge (to Member's patience if nothing else)! but we are confident that we will have this issue sorted in the coming weeks.
- The Parish Council have adopted a second telephone kiosk in the parish.

I will be working with Councillors to update the website over coming weeks and months and to bring our processes and policies up to date. If you have any thoughts on this or any other parish matters, or are thinking about becoming a Councillor and would like more information, please email me at npapclerk@gmail.com.

Beverley Thorpe

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

St George's Church, Newbold Pacey

The PCC has been untangling all the guidance about re-opening churches, as you can imagine there are a lot of requirements to be met.

We hope to open for a limited number of services in September. Details will be on noticeboards, the website and the St George's Facebook page.

In the meantime we would like to thank everyone who has left messages of support – your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

WI REPORT

It is with sadness that I share the news of the recent death of our dear friend and WI member Betty Biggerstaff.

Betty lived in her bungalow next to Molly Kearns on Bromson Hill. During lockdown I have been having doorstep chats with Betty each week, delivering WI news and sometimes homemade biscuits. She had recovered from her hip operation last year but was very frail. She was very grateful for being kept in touch and appreciated the good wishes I passed on from her WI friends. Our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.

■ Our WI members continue to keep in touch with each other via phone, email, WhatsApp and Facebook; doorstep chats too. We are still supporting our local community and keeping our minds active.

■ Afternoon Tea Boxes for the Asho Glasto event were a great success. WI cake making was on parade as Helen Oakley and her team of volunteers made up 100 boxes full of fresh sandwiches, homemade cake and scones that were delivered around the Parish. We also had a front lawn cake stall. Our efforts contributed much of the £700 that was raised at the event towards the Ashorne Village Hut Roof Appeal.

■ Goody bag delivery – as not all our members are online, we wanted to let everyone know we're thinking of them. Our Committee delivered goody bags to all members at the beginning of July. The handmade bags contained soap, face mask, quiz, homemade biscuits, recipes, knitting pattern for a prem baby hat, wordsearch and an invite to order a WI Afternoon Tea Box for 22 July.

■ June meeting on Zoom was with Civil Celebrant, Shena Lewington who talked about Landmarks in Life, sharing some weird and wonderful naming and marriage ceremonies that go on around the world.

■ July meeting was also on Zoom with guest speaker Christine Duffin – past governor of Dartmoor Prison. We were joined by other WIs around the county for a fascinating talk about Chris's 20-year career in the prison service with tales of old lags, misogyny and scary moments amongst thought provoking statistics and lives set on a more positive course. A highly recommended speaker.

■ Outdoor Craft & Chat sessions have resumed, 6 of us in members gardens. We continue to knit tiny hats for prem babies at Warwick Hospital and hats, scarves and gloves for next winter for the WI Federation Homeless Appeal.

■ Our Walking Group met in early July for a lovely 4-mile circular walk from Ashorne to Moreton Morrell and we have another planned for early August

We hear that restrictions on 'gatherings' are easing from 1 August so are looking at WI and government guidance on how we can meet together, safely for an outdoor afternoon cuppa in mid-August. Our September speaker is Christine Frey 'Why is change so hard?' which may be on Zoom or in the village hall if it is open and regulations allow.

We continue to tend our sunflowers, ready for our WI Sunflower Growing Competition judgement day – August Bank Holiday Monday and hope to have a village full of joy, colour and cheer by late summer.

We'd love to see new members and guests – maybe online before in person! Contact Trish by phone for a chat or email. Stay well, stay safe everyone.

Trish Handsley, President 2020 01926 651978
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