

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

www.ashover-pc.gov.uk



NEWSLETTER 3 - 2020/2021 WINTER

Remembrance Sunday - November 2020



Along with other community groups, Ashover Parish Council laid a poppy wreath at the War Memorial in All Saints Churchyard, remembering lives lost in all wars. Whilst there was no formal service and laying of wreaths, everyone remembered the sacrifices made by others.

Respects were paid at other locations around the parish, including a tribute at one of the 3 WW1 Centenary trees planted by Ashover Tree Group in November 2018. Pictured is a beech tree planted near the boundary to the Fabric.



LOOKING BACK AT CHRISTMAS 2020



Ashover Parish Christmas Tree

The switch-on of the Christmas Tree Lights began in 2006 when Prince Charles visited Ashover and carried out the first official 'Switch-On' and the tradition has continued ever since until this year when, sadly, it could not go ahead due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Nonetheless, resplendent with a new star on top, the parish tree was in its usual place this year outside the Basset Rooms. It's a pity we couldn't celebrate the grand switch-on this year, but perhaps in 2021 we'll be able to pull out all the stops and make it a real occasion!

Ashover Brass Band bringing their cheer!



In such challenging and uncertain times it's wonderful to be able to enjoy some Christmas traditions. As in previous years Ashover Brass Band have been touring the parish playing Christmas tunes with their usual joy and exuberance.

Taking the chilly weather in their stride, they played at the Santa Run at the Avenue, Wingerworth before heading to Littlemoor, Milltown, Dovecotes, the Post Office and at the Peak Care home. The band have continued to meet as much as permitted throughout the year, in small groups, as a socially distanced band or virtually and even took part in a virtual Brass Band Championship this year.

We're so fortunate to share the fun and cheer they bring. Long may the tradition continue!

Alton Christmas - A Brief History

Did you know that there has been a Christmas Tree in Alton every year since 1976? - And all because Pauline Adams thought "it would be a nice idea and help to bring the village together". Roger Adams was dispatched to meet with Geoff Brailsford (David's dad) at Honeycroft Farm and the rest, as they say, is history. It was decided that Roger would buy the tree and Geoff would provide the electricity to light it up, an arrangement that continues to this day. The Ashover Brass Band was booked to attend, with Kath Brailsford and her team of helpers providing coffee (with rum to warm the cockles of the heart) and mince pies baked within the village. For many years the Adams family funded the tree whilst the Brailsfords provide the electricity for the lights.



An Alton Christmas Tree Committee was formed which still meets twice per year; once when the tree is erected and once when taken down. It met, for the first 43 years, in Kath Brailsford's kitchen (more rum and coffee). Minutes are kept for each meeting. The membership is rather ad hoc but with core members providing continuity. The first donations in 1976 for the Alton Christmas Tree came to £27.14 given by 23 people from around the village. £21.50 of this was spent on the lights, cable and bulbs and 50p on an electrician, leaving a balance of £5.64

The event has happened every year regardless of weather, although one year in the 1980's it was so bad the carols were moved into the cattle shed for the first time. So, during *Away in a Manger*, the cattle actually were lowing!

There have been several years since we have been forced inside but, if the weather allows, we prefer to be around the tree.

In 1990 nine light bulbs were stolen from the tree and a village vigilante group caught the thief after laying in wait. He was from another area and wanted the lights for his own tree. Some wanted to hang the culprit from the nearest lamp post but eventually he was warned not come back again and he never did.

In the 1980's when Fred and Freda Adams (Roger's parents) left the village to live in Littlemoor the Christmas Carols idea went with them. A Christmas Tree planted then still stood until a few years ago when it got too big and was cut down. The Band visits Littlemoor each year before it comes on to Alton.



More recently, donations go mainly to make a contribution to Ashover Brass Band (this is in addition to the money the Band collect on the night), to contribute to the cost of the tree and to purchase replacement lights.

In 2017 the tree was so large we were forced to deploy Dave Burton's cherry picker to arrange the lights. Over the last few years this has continued to make the putting up of the tree much easier.

With 2020 being the year of Covid, it was be the first year that the Ashover Band were not be



able to come but we did have a tree for the forty fifth consecutive year. Thanks to the ingenuity of Derrick and Joan Priestley, a smaller number of residents were able to gather socially distanced and sing carols on Christmas Eve to a backing track broadcast from their car next to the tree.

Ashover Playground project – looking back...

FROM THIS...



TO THIS...



It was in early 2020 that, with the full support and encouragement of the parish council, a project team was formed comprising Councillors, Lucy Hunter-Bott, Steve Dronfield and Mike Thomas along with Clerk, Sara Atkinson. Their brief was to carry out a review of the playground facilities in Ashover and present costed options with recommendations for consideration by the parish council.

Unfortunately, Covid-19's arrival in March meant that initial planning had to be put on hold and it was July before the team was able to resume work. An Invitation To Tender (ITT) was released soon afterwards. Basically, this is a document which gives guidance to interested companies in the form of a design brief and the budget they need to be working to. In mid-September we received the results and, with Sara acting as moderator, Lucy and Mike debated which designs offered the best combination of imaginative design and value

for money. From this, we arrived at a short list of two companies and at this point we asked Steve (our parish council auditor) to vet the processes we had gone through and confirm he was satisfied these had been fair, open and transparent. Having received Steve's blessing, we then presented our conclusions and recommendations at the October parish council meeting. Our recommended choice of KOMPAN was approved.

We did wonder how much the weather and Covid-19 might get in the way of installation to the December target but full credit to KOMPAN for keeping things on track through to completion.

We must also put on record our gratitude to the trustees of Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd for their generous grant of £12,000 towards the cost of the upgraded playground. It was much appreciated.

Wet weather over recent months has meant that whilst the playground is open there are sections cordoned off to allow the ground to recover from the installation work. Nevertheless, it's great that we completed the project this year and we can look forward to Spring next year when we'll have a proper celebration to mark the opening of the new playground.

Working to Address Climate Change – update:

The climate is the long-term pattern of day to day weather. Our food and water supplies depend on stable seasonal patterns of temperature, rain, and wind in the UK and elsewhere. In the last 100 years the earth's average temperature has increased faster than previously seen – this is known as global warming or global heating.

Evidence shows that human activity and our use of fuels like petrol, diesel, gas, and coal is highly likely to be the main cause of global warming. When these fuels are burned they release greenhouse gases which trap heat in the earth's atmosphere, causing the air and seas to heat up which changes the climate. The greenhouse gases produced when we burn these fuels contain a lot of carbon and so the term 'carbon emissions' is often used. The problem is that current levels of greenhouse gases are higher than they have been over the last 800,000 years and they are rising rapidly. This is a real and significant threat. In response, Ashover Parish Council has declared a Climate Emergency.

- There's an action plan which we are working on delivering.
- We have agreed to discuss working in partnership with Holymoorside and Walton Parish Council to share ideas and this should start in January 2021
- Sharing public information:
 - Derbyshire Trading Standards wishes to notify residents of the Government initiative called The Green Homes Grant. There is a voucher which enables households to fund certain energy improvements to their house. Briefly, the procedure requires the householder to firstly apply for a voucher and then obtain quotes from certified contractors, including one from a Green Homes Grant registered installer. Full details about the scheme, whether you're eligible and how to apply, are below:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme#getting-the-work-done>
If your application is successful, the work must then be completed by a TrustMark-registered installer who is also registered for the scheme. Derbyshire Trading Standards has heard about some companies visiting door-to-door offering home improvement work and claiming the grant may be available to pay for the work carried out. These claims may be misleading because if they're not registered, and if you've

not applied for the voucher beforehand, you may end up paying the entire bill. The Green Homes Grant scheme will never include representatives coming to your property uninvited or cold calling on the phone to encourage you to join the scheme.

If any home improvement business calls unannounced saying they are part of the scheme, please report the incident to **Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133**.

- If you have any questions or examples of good ideas for energy efficiency improvements, please let us know parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk

Church News

All Saints Church wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

All Saints Church, Ashover, will continue to hold a 10.45 am service in church each Sunday in 2021 with safe-distanced seating and face coverings. If changes to Covid-19 restrictions do not allow this, a recorded weekly service will be available each week on the YouTube channel All Saints Ashover For Amber Churches which can also be accessed via the church website www.amberchurches.org.

The leaders of the Acorns, a church pre-school group, will continue to post regular on-line story and craft sessions for children which can all be watched on the YouTube channel Acorns and Allsorts.

If anyone would like to contact a church warden or a member of the Ministry team contact details are available on the website and on the church porch noticeboard.

Ashover Footpaths and Bridleways Group

Ashover footpaths and bridleways now cover over 50 miles! The latest additions are two parts of Back Lane Overton from near Milltown to Green End on Overton Lane. They are now legal bridleways, so it is illegal for motorbikes to use them.

A small group of volunteers has been active on several paths in The Parish both to clear vegetation and to ensure that paths are on the legal line. In particular, the old stone slabs on the path to Overton Hall and those on the path from The Rattle to Marsh Green have been cleared. Work has also continued on Highoredish, The Fabric and Eddlestowe Lot to follow environmental plans established on the County Council owned lands.

We are lucky that Karen Haywood from Milltown (01246 590145) is the main contact for all things to do with bridleways.

It would also be helpful if more volunteers come forward to help with the network of paths, as the present gang advance in years – but still have the knowledge of the network.....If there are folks in different parts of The Parish to keep an eye on their nearest paths (say Uppertown, Milltown, Kelstedge, Press and Stone Edge, the please contact Richard Felton on 01246 590786 to learn more!

If you wish to report any issues relating to rights of way there is an online facility at <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/prow> Furthermore, you can view the entire rights of way network by visiting the Council's website and searching for 'Mapping Portal' where visitors can view a wealth of information, including Rights of Way. Information relating to Modification Orders may be viewed here

<https://www.apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/>

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS

- **William Armitage** (01246)590486
Green Bank,Hockley Lane,Ashover S45 0ER
- **Helen Boffy** (07515 280707)
Langford House Narrowleys Lane Ashover S45 0AU
- **Steve Dronfield** (01246) 590721
Willow Tree Farm, Hunger Hill Lane, Stonedge S45 0LP
- **Nigel Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Rosemary Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Richard Fidler** (01246) 590155 (**Vice-Chairman**)
Porthlea, Alton Lane, Littlemoor S45 0BE
- **Lucy Hunter-Bott** 07976 733607
Marshbrook, Butts Road, Ashover S45 0HW
- **Chris Miller** (01246) 590253
Hill House, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BU
- **Mike Thomas** (01246) 591733
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 - William Armitage** (01246)590486
Green Bank,Hockley Lane,Ashover S45 0ER
- **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 Bureau – Providing consumer advice, free of charge, on a range of issues or complaints. Website: www.adviceguide.org.uk Tel. 08454 040506