

## Grants

Last year grants were made to many organisations involved with the village including the Village Centre and Conservation Group. Applications are welcome for the current year.

## Finance

Below is a summary of the Council expenditure for the last year for the year 2006/07 as the Annual Report for the year was not distributed to all residents due to factors outside the control of the Council.

INCOME	
Precept	33000.00
Interest	1956.64
other monies received	1000.00
Tea Club	138.25
John Pears	2038.81
Green Sacks	327.60
Rail passes	210.00
Parish plan	181.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38852.90</b>
EXPENDITURE	
Staffing	9949.37
Office	5903.74
Audit	260.00
Office equipment	725.00
Insurance	966.13
Grants and donations	3040.00
Street lighting	3055.43
Garden and property maintenance	2194.74
Publicity and advertising	24.00
Consultancy and training	128.25
Train passes	453.30
Misc inc. Chairs allowance	88.07
Subscriptions	425.37
Cllrs & Clerk's travel	193.80
Shopping Bus	744.42
Tea Club	135.00
Parish Plan Sect.111	2391.06
John Pears	792.70
WebSite	137.50
Green Sacks	327.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31935.48</b>

Cllr Jonathan Samways has agreed to become the Parish Liaison person for Local Transport . Anyone with comments or suggestions on public transport can contact him via the Parish Office

### RECYCLING CHRISTMAS TREES

If you have a real Christmas tree, recycle it! John Pears Field- adjacent to the car park will be one of the recycling points it will be open between 4th and 16th January 2008.

Parish Office, St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3QT Tel. No 01342 - 823770  
web: [www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk) Email: [parishof@supanet.com](mailto:parishof@supanet.com)

## E Newsletter

Ashurst Wood Parish Council will send a monthly communication by E-mail to all who have registered to receive it, in addition it will be included in an Ashurst Wood page in the Church Parish Magazine and also in the Ashurst Wood column of the Courier. We are in the process of investigating obtaining a new E-mail address as Clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk, once that has been confirmed then all communications will come from that address. If you would like this E-Newsletter please send your E-mail address to the Parish Clerk at : [parishof@supanet.com](mailto:parishof@supanet.com)

### ASHURST WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

The Neighbourhood Watch Organisation was originally formed to help small communities such as Ashurst Wood unite and form a network of people inside that community willing to help their neighbours combat crime.

We, who reside in Ashurst Wood, have the comfort of living in what is classed as 'a low crime area'. Nevertheless, as recent events in the village have proved, we are open to burglary, car crime and other forms of criminal damage, all very distressing for the victims.

To help combat all forms of criminal activity in our village, we are trying to expand the presence of NHW throughout the village. We are asking everyone to be aware of what is happening in the immediate vicinity of where they live; to make sure those who live alone or are vulnerable, are secure in their homes. If you see or hear anything that makes you suspicious please report it to the police.

We have recruited street coordinators for most of the streets in the village, and would dearly love to have many more as at the moment we are too thinly spread. Having one person looking out for twenty homes is far less efficient than two people for ten homes. There is nothing time consuming about being a street coordinator. The main task is to make sure things are as they should be as you go about your daily tasks around the village. If you see or hear anything which causes you concern then we ask you inform the police or discuss your concern with another member of AAWN.

If you wish to know more regarding Neighbourhood Watch please contact one of the following: -

The Parish Clerk at the Parish Council Office, Councillor Ian Arnott or Peter Melody, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

Peter Melody.  
December 2007.

**Parish council website:** All local groups are welcome to include their contact details and news.

# Ashurst Wood Parish Council



## Newsletter Winter 2007



### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Unfortunately, despite the hard work in producing the Parish Council's Annual Report due to unforeseen problems with the firm we employed to distribute it, it seems that many people did not receive a copy. As a result of this you will find a summary of the Council expenditure for last year on the back of this newsletter. These figures are the ones that appeared in the Annual Report.

If anyone would like a copy of the Annual Report please contact Susan Wellerd, the Parish Clerk, on 01342 823770 who will arrange to get one to you.

During the last year two major aims for the Parish Council have been achieved:

Becoming a Quality Parish Council  
The publication of the Village Action Plan

The Parish Council are progressing the actions you told us you wanted and as set out in the Village Action Plan document and in particular with the provision of affordable homes (details of which you will see below); Communications, where a committee has been set up to explore a better way to let you know what the Parish Council is up to on your behalf; Community Safety is an area which I know concerns a lot of you and progress is being made in the expansion of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and in the setting up of a Speedwatch scheme.

The work in connection with the reduction the speed limit on the A22 Lewes Road from 40mph to 30mph being carried out by West Sussex County Council should be completed by Christmas. This is something which the Parish Council have been pushing for and although some of you do not agree with this speed limit reduction, it will make this road a lot safer.

Our new handyman, Dick Tyrell, has been doing an excellent job around the village by keeping everything in good repair and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his diligent attitude and hard work.

If there is anything which concerns you please do come along and ask questions at the Parish Council meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month (except January and August) at 7.45pm in the hall next to St Dunstan's Church.

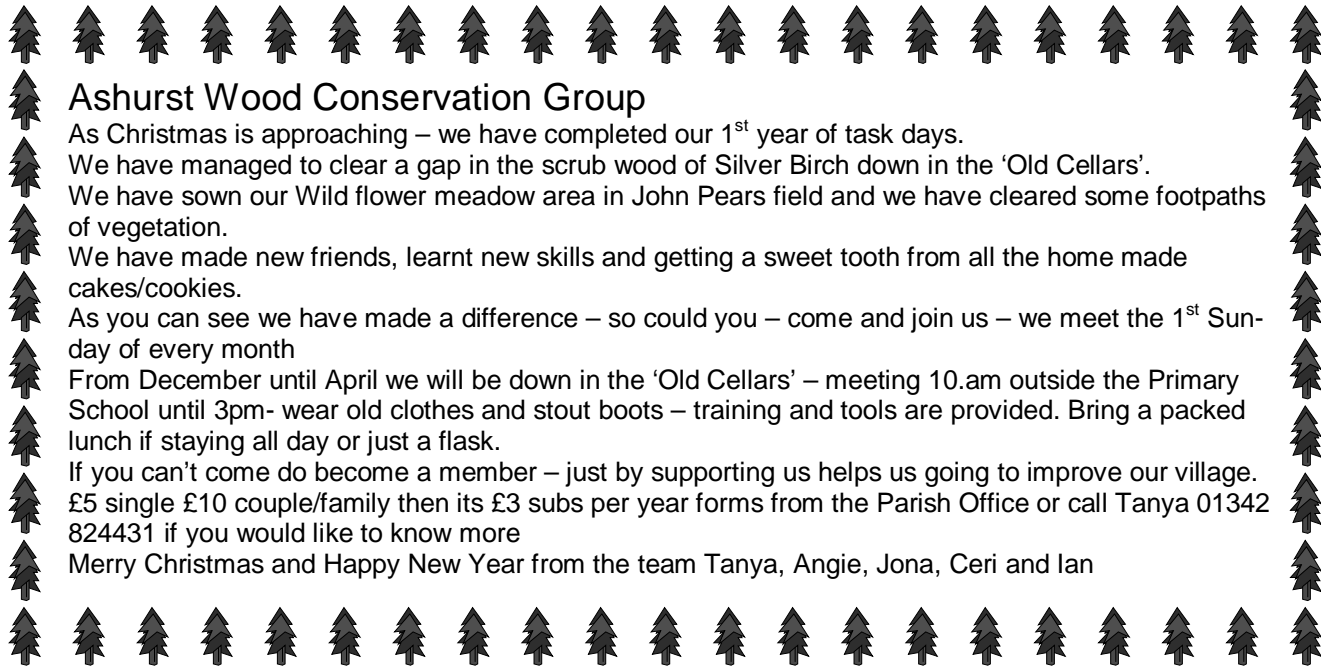
Finally, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

**Don Sinclair**

### Affordable Housing – an update

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent housing needs survey from Action in Rural Sussex. The responses confirm that there is a need for affordable housing in the village for local people. The Parish Council is therefore committed to establishing a small development of affordable homes, which could include rental and shared ownership properties.

We are working with Mid Sussex District Council and a rural housing organisation to try and identify suitable land for building between 6 and 10 homes. Several sites have already been put forward by residents and more suggestions would be very helpful, particularly from landowners. Suitable land would be outside the area of the village in which development is normally allowed, but still close enough to local facilities and with access to public transport. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are aware of any possible sites. Maybe you own land that has been refused planning permission for commercial development and you would like to be involved in a project to benefit the community.



## Ashurst Wood Conservation Group

As Christmas is approaching – we have completed our 1<sup>st</sup> year of task days.  
 We have managed to clear a gap in the scrub wood of Silver Birch down in the ‘Old Cellars’.  
 We have sown our Wild flower meadow area in John Pears field and we have cleared some footpaths of vegetation.  
 We have made new friends, learnt new skills and getting a sweet tooth from all the home made cakes/cookies.  
 As you can see we have made a difference – so could you – come and join us – we meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month  
 From December until April we will be down in the ‘Old Cellars’ – meeting 10.am outside the Primary School until 3pm- wear old clothes and stout boots – training and tools are provided. Bring a packed lunch if staying all day or just a flask.  
 If you can’t come do become a member – just by supporting us helps us going to improve our village.  
 £5 single £10 couple/family then its £3 subs per year forms from the Parish Office or call Tanya 01342 824431 if you would like to know more  
 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the team Tanya, Angie, Jona, Ceri and Ian

## Information on Concessionary Travel

Mid Sussex District Council runs a scheme to help older people and disabled adult residents in Mid Sussex with the cost of travel. You can view or download the MSDC leaflet about concessionary travel in the area.

### Senior Railcards

Senior Railcards entitle you to one third off the cost of most rail journeys.

### How much does it cost?

Mid Sussex District Council offers passes at a reduced rate of £17 for Senior Railcards, or £11.90 for Disabled Persons Railcards. Ashurst Wood Parish Council currently also offers a further subsidy, making the cost £10

### Where do I apply?

Apply in person to your local office - see below. A recent passport sized photograph, proof of age and proof of residency are required by all new applicants.

### Ashurst Wood

The Post Office and News Store, 19 Hammerwood Road, Ashurst Wood. 01342 324871  
 Mon - Fri 9.00am - 1.00pm; 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Sat 9.00am - 12.30pm  
 The Parish Council would like to thank Angie and Bob for providing this service to the community.

### Bus Travel

You may be eligible for reduced bus, rail or taxi fares if you are permanently resident in Mid Sussex **And** are 60 years of age or over **or** you suffer from disability in any one or more of the following categories (as determined by the Transport Act 2000);

- you are blind or partially sighted
- you are profoundly or severely deaf
- you are without speech
- you have a disability or injury which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to walk
- you are without arms or have long-term loss of the use of both arms
- you have a learning disability
- you have been refused a driving licence (or would be should you apply) on medical grounds under section 92 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (physical fitness)

**Proof of age or disability must be produced by all new applicants. If you are disabled your doctor can certify your eligibility by completing a form.**

## Garden Bonfires – Be a Good Neighbour

Despite popular belief, there are no specific bye-laws to prohibit bonfires in the Mid Sussex area. Without new legislation, it is impossible to enforce a total ban on them. Although bonfires are sometimes the only practicable way to dispose of garden waste Mid Sussex District Council tries to encourage occupiers to either compost their garden waste or use the collection service provided by MSDC .

However, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the Council is able to investigate any bonfires which are causing a nuisance by excess smoke/odour, especially if on a regular basis. If you would like a leaflet on this subject published by the National Society for Clean Air please contact the Environmental Protection Team on 01444 477292. Or you can access the NSCA website at [www.nasca.org.uk](http://www.nasca.org.uk)

Bonfires cause air pollution and can be very irritating to neighbours. The smoke, smuts and smell give rise to many complaints, which are received by the Environmental Health Section.

Burning garden waste produces smoke, especially if it is damp. This smoke will contain carbon monoxide as well as other irritating compounds. Burning plastic, rubber or painted materials may also produce a range of noxious compounds. Although short-lived exposure to bonfire smoke is unlikely to cause serious harm, those who suffer from asthma, bronchitis or heart conditions may be more seriously affected.

An alternative means of disposing of surplus garden and household refuse is to deposit it, free of charge, at High Grove, Imberhorne Lane, East Grinstead.

This information was obtained from MSDC website

## Speed Watch

Details of the proposed sites for Speed Watch in Ashurst Wood and the contact details of the volunteers have been passed to the local Police. Volunteers will be contacted to arrange for the training to take place. Anyone wishing to add their names to the list should contact the Clerk at the usual number.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:

**Chairman:**  
Don Sinclair, **824317**  
**Vice Chair:**  
Jenny Forbes, **822769**  
**Councillors:**  
Ian Arnott, **822555**  
 Michael Box, **822664**  
 Paul Bridgland, **822068**  
 Alan Del Mar, **823196**  
 Malcolm Elliott, **324474**  
 Brian Phillips, **824154**  
 Jonathan Samways, **322226**

## PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

**Public Services**  
Chairman: Alan Del Mar

**Planning**  
Chair: Jenny Forbes

**John Pears Management**  
Chairman : to be announced

### PARISH CLERK

Susan Wellerd St Dunstan’s Church Chapel Lane  
 Ashurst Wood RH19 3QT  
 01342 823770  
 Email; [parishof@supanet.com](mailto:parishof@supanet.com)

Office hours; Monday Wednesday and Thursday mornings (except on the Thursday when the Parish News is printed)  
[www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)