

### 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.

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

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### Ashurst Wood Primary School News.

It is now a year since the building work started at Ashurst Wood Primary School. Now we are enjoying teaching and learning in 2 new classrooms for our youngest children, with a library and group room for the whole school to access. We also have new toilets. The classrooms are very modern and include Interactive Whiteboards for teachers & children to use. They have an outdoor, covered playspace to extend their learning outside. Where the old temporary huts stood is now part of the playground with a new agility trail for pupils to climb on and explore.

This project was funded by West Sussex. However, the school's Capital Funding met the cost of the library.

Some refurbishment has taken place through the old building with new carpets, windows and a coat of paint has helped to give a new feel to the whole school.

Everyone in school is delighted with our new premises and our provision for children will go from strength to strength.  
Miss Debbie Barnes Head Teacher

### Hedges:

Now the birds have fledged could all householders cut back hedges where these are obstructing the pavement, roads where pedestrians walk with out pavements, public rights of way (footpaths) or vehicle sight lines of traffic signs. The County Council have powers to cut back untended hedges and invoice the land-owner so please make sure your hedges are not causing an obstruction. Cutting can commence on the first of September.

### Date for your Diary:

The Parish Council are planning to co ordinate a Christmas Market on 4th December with the village Primary school and pre-school. Local food and crafts producers are welcome to apply for a stall and any profits will go to local groups and initiatives in the village.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Peter Melody has brought this vital organisation back to life and has done an excellent work in coordinating all the street representatives. He would now like to stand down, but has agreed to help his successor and hand over the information.. Everything is in place, so it is not starting from scratch and Julie May has agreed to continue to help coordinate, but we do need to now appoint a new coordinator. Please contact Susan Wellerd for details - <mailto:clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk> or 01342 823770.

# Ashurst Wood



# Parish Council



## Newsletter Summer 2009

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2009 Summer edition of your Parish Council's newsletter which I hope you will find informative.

The various articles show the efforts being carried out by the various voluntary organisations in the village. This work has just been recognised by the village coming runner up in the 2009 Calor Village of the Year competition. I attended the award ceremony with the Chairman and Secretary of the Village Centre Trustees held on the 10th July in Scaynes Hill village hall and I was delighted when it was announced that Ashurst Wood had come runner up and was proud to accept the award (a plaque and a cheque for £300). The money will go towards a suitable cause in the village. This award meant that Ashurst Wood came second in the whole of West Sussex, no mean feat and is a great accolade for all the people who give their time freely to help create the great community of which we are fortunate to be a part.

**Don Sinclair**

## Summer Sports Fun Day in Ashurst Wood

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 9.30am – 4.00pm

### John Pears Field and Ashurst Wood Primary School

**Ages 5-16 years**

**Athletics.**

**Art, Craft & Games**

**Football**

**Karate/ Kick boxing**

**Netball**

**Tennis**

**£7.50 for first child £5.00 for same family members.**

Full details from 01342 823770 or on the website [www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Organised by Ashurst Wood Parish Council in association with Ashurst Wood Primary School Mid Sussex District Council East Grinstead Athletics Club. Advantage Over Tennis team. Brighton & Hove Albion FC. Sama organisation and Southdown Netball.

**Book Now to reserve your place.**

## ASHURST WOOD SUMMER FAIR

On 20 June the first major Summer Fair for 12 years was held in Ashurst Wood. The weather was fine, the crowds flocked in and everyone had a great time. There was a wonderful community spirit with people meeting old friends, making new acquaintances and generally enjoying themselves.

The organising committee were delighted with the way it went. Below are some quotes from messages we have received that sum up very well the oral comments we have received:

"Very many thanks .... for giving the villagers the opportunity to enjoy such a lovely occasion last Saturday. Quite apart from the money ... the whole thing was delightful – so much to see and do for all ages but most of all it was a great social event"

The success was due in no small part to the willing help that was forthcoming from so many people. We made the preparations and did the organising but a lot was down to the help from so many people who pulled together and did their bit.

The Fair raised around £5000 for the three main beneficiaries – the Primary School will receive 50%, the Church 30% and the Community Pre-School 20% - and they are all very grateful for this valuable addition to their funds.

The programme "Lucky Number" was 516 and the winners will be enjoying lunch for two at Rowfant House. A list of the raffle prize winners is available in the Parish Office and will be posted on the Council website.

The consensus amongst the organising committee was to hold another fair in 2011 – 2 July has been earmarked as the date so put it in your forward planner now! If you would like to be involved in the organisation of this event please do contact me. We will be holding a first meeting in the autumn.

Keith Stacey  
on behalf of the Steering Committee  
(tel: 323880 or email: keith@keithandwendy.net)

### Affordable Housing:

A recent meeting was hosted by Mid Sussex District Council in Haywards Heath which was attended by representatives of the Parish Council, English Rural Housing Association and Action in Rural Sussex.

The Consultation meeting feedback and a summary of the 23 letters received were reviewed. English Rural Housing have agreed to review the designs and plans in the light of the information received.

The meeting confirmed that West Sussex Highways Department had reviewed the outline plans and had no fundamental objections. No date has been set for another meeting.

The Parish Council will keep you updated on any news regarding this.

### **Village Centre Purchase**

Ashurst Wood Parish Council has completed the purchase of the Village Centre. The Diocese of Chichester has owned the Centre since 1929, it was originally used as St Dunstan's Church Hall but since the current church in Hammerwood Road was acquired in 1979 it has been surplus to requirements for their purposes.

The Parish Council recognised the importance of the Village Centre as being the heart of the community and the sterling work undertaken by the Trustees in the management of this important and well used asset. It was decided to acquire the Centre in order to safeguard this facility for future generations. It is not intended to alter the excellent management organisation and the relationship of the Parish Council to the Trustees will be to provide support when required. The sentiment being "*More of the same, only better*"

The Parish Council congratulate the Trustees of the Village Centre in their achievement in obtaining the Stage 2 Hallmark award, indeed a mark of excellence.

## Japanese Knotweed – Britain's Most Pernicious Weed

In Sussex Japanese Knotweed is a plant that is still relatively uncommon. For this reason most people living in the area do not recognise the serious problems it can cause and the extreme difficulties of eradicating it.  
Can you recognise it? Do you realise the problems it causes and how it is spread?

### How did it arrive?

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the female plant of Japanese Knotweed was introduced into the UK as an ornamental plant. However it has exceptional powers of regeneration and establishing itself without producing viable seeds, and can now be found all over the UK even on remote islands. For this reason it has been dubbed "the Biggest Female in the World"!!

### What does it look like?

A large stand can be easily recognised in summer as it has Bamboo like stems which can grow to around 10 foot/3 metres high, and large roughly heart shaped leaves. It can also produce sprays of small white flowers in July/August, but as only the female plant exists in this country fertile seeds are not produced. It dies down in winter leaving dead tall brown stems and is not so noticeable. However the underground stems remain alive and over years can form a massive structure beneath the soil extending 20 feet/7 metres away and 10 feet/3metres down, and are much bigger than what is seen above ground.

In Ashurst Wood large stands can be seen along Windmill Lane and the Ivydene Industrial Estate.

### How does it spread?

The plant is spread **only** by mechanical means eg fly tipping, mowing, cutting/ breaking off stems or fragments, moving water, fragments being caught in vehicle tyres or machinery etc. and yet it is now growing throughout the UK! The two large established sites mentioned above are examples of where the plant can easily be transferred to new areas in Ashurst Wood or elsewhere.

### Where will it grow?

The plant will grow well in most soils including very poor ones except those in heavy shade. It will even establish itself in cracks in concrete, penetrate the mortar of walls, and grow through tarmac. As the underground stems start to grow they start to affect and move structures such as paving and walls creating more cracks for the plant to grow thereby cause structural damage.

### Legal restrictions

It is an offence to transfer or cause it to grow in the wild.

Contaminated soil or plant material is classified as controlled waste and therefore must not be put into green waste or taken to the local waste tip.

### How to treat it?

A programme of herbicide treatment over several years is generally needed to eradicate it. This is best done by a specialist contractor who will be able to use appropriate herbicides and recognise whether the plant has been eradicated. Spraying in August/early September is very effective.

Much more information about Japanese Knotweed is available on the web from various councils including West Sussex County Council and other organisations such as DEFRA. Mike Funnell West Sussex County Council Ranger

A "Plusbus" scheme has recently been introduced in the East Grinstead area including Ashurst Wood. This enables rail travellers to add local Metrobus services to their train ticket for a reduced amount compared with buying separate bus/train tickets. They are available for one day or for various lengths of season ticket, and have to be purchased from a rail station. For season ticket holders there are potential savings over parking charges. Full details can be found on the Southern ([www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com)) and Metrobus ([www.metrobus.co.uk](http://www.metrobus.co.uk)) websites.

### **YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:**

<b>Chairman:</b>	
Don Sinclair,	<b>824317</b>
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	
Jenny Forbes,	<b>822769</b>
<b>Councillors:</b>	
Ian Arnott,	<b>822555</b>
Michael Box,	<b>822664</b>
Paul Bridgland,	<b>822068</b>
Alan Del Mar,	<b>823196</b>
Karen Lindsay,	<b>824831</b>
Brian Phillips,	<b>824154</b>
Jonathan Samways,	<b>322226</b>

### **PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**Public Services**  
Chairman: Alan Del Mar

**Planning**  
Chair: Jenny Forbes

**Finance & Administration**  
Chairman: Alan Del Mar

### **PARISH CLERK**

Susan Wellerd St Dunstan's Church Chapel Lane  
Ashurst Wood RH19 3QT  
01342 823770  
Email; Clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

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)**