



Newsletter Winter 2009

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Budget Time

It is that time of the year when the Parish Council discusses the budget for the year 2010 to 2011. Members of the community are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings when these important discussions take place on matters of expenditure in the coming year prior to setting the precept. To put things into context the current annual precept which we receive from the District Council is £36,400 which represents on average £54 per annum per household (or £1 per week) which has been good value given the things the Council has carried out on your behalf. However if you do not agree with what we are doing why not come along to the Parish Council meetings held at 7.45pm on the first Tuesday of each month (except January and August) and tell us what you think.

Some of the things we have been up to are reported in this newsletter which I hope that you will find informative and please come along to the Christmas Market in the Village Centre on 4th December from 3pm.

Don Sinclair

Christmas Market

Friday 4th December 2009

3.00pm - 7.00pm

Village Centre

Please put Friday 4th December in your diaries and come along and support our first Village Christmas Market in the Village Centre from 3pm until 7pm.

The Parish Council together with representatives from the Primary School, Pre School, St Dunstan's Church, Conservation Group, Junior Football Club and the Village Centre are busy finalising plans.

The Market will include something for everyone, old and young alike. Local craft stalls include homemade produce, refreshments, raffle, Jewellery, gifts festive wreaths, barbecue and cards. There will be an opportunity for children to buy and wrap a present for a "special person" in the Secret Shopping area.

Adults can have a taster manicure or facial whilst children can visit the ever popular Santa's Grotto. The Primary School and Pre school will be entertaining us with Carol Singing at 3.30pm

We look forward to welcoming you on the 4th to what promises to be a wonderful way to get your Christmas shopping done locally.

Sports & Fun Day

The first Ashurst Wood sports and fun day was held in August 2009 and was a great success. Forty-seven children and young people between 5 and 13 years of age, the majority from Ashurst Wood enjoyed an activity filled day. We were very fortunate with the help received from the Athletics, Karate and Netball clubs, Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, the local Police Community Support Officer, who came in his own time and the Mid Sussex District Council Ranger who helped escort children between the Primary School and John Pears. Members of the community helped put up the marquee and the Youth Worker, Louise McClure helped run the day.

The Parish Council have agreed to host another event in 2010 and are meeting with members of the community from Forest Row to discuss making it a joint event, possibly over two days. The provision for disabled children will hopefully be extended to make this an accessible event for everyone. Anyone who would like to be involved in the event for 2010 please contact the Clerk, Susan Wellerd for more details.

Parish Council updates:

Website:

The Parish Council website has been upgraded and can be found at www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk the Council is always looking for new and seasonal photos to put on the website, so if you would like to see your pics included please send to Clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk. Or if you have any comments on the new website— which is constantly being updated and improved the Council would be pleased to hear from you.

Christmas Cards:

The Council has produced three Christmas cards with views of Ashurst Wood and these will be on sale at the Christmas Market or from the Office—cost £1 per card.

Office arrangements:

The Parish Council Office continues to be open during the developments being done by St Dunstan's Church. Access to the office is through the church and at the rear .

New Assistant:

Earlier this year the Council appointed an assistant to the Clerk, Rebecca Roberts, who is a welcome addition to the team helping provide a service to the Community all year round.

Conservation Group

Ashurst Wood Conservation Group have been very active this autumn, the AGM was held in October and included a popular quiz. The area in Hammerwood Road adjacent to the Recreation Ground was cleared to enable the rocks to be visible and native plants to be planted. Work continues on John Pears Field with coppicing the trees and the wild flower meadow. Also the 'Old Cellars' restoration project which is looking great. (for photos see Parish Council website)

Anyone can become a member with a one off joining fee followed by a £3 per year membership fee. You don't have to go along to the work sessions, just by joining you are supporting the work as insurance cover and tools have to be paid for. The Parish Council support the group by providing some storage, so costs are minimised.

Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact Tanya Hayman on 01342 824431 or email : tanya.aw@btinternet.com

Ashurst Wood Primary School News

Remembrance Day was commemorated at Ashurst Wood School, firstly with an assembly by Rev. Paul Redpath who spoke to the children about remembrance and what it means. Then on Friday 13th November, instead of the normal cars in the car park there was a tank!!! This was all part of our 'Help for Heroes' Day and Alex Herriot a speaker from the Armed Forces came and spent time talking to each class. The children were able to dress up in Army costumes in exchange for donations of a variety of treats and supplies to be sent to our overseas forces. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations.

With Christmas fast approaching the school has numerous festive events planned. Of course many of you will be aware of the Christmas market in the Village Centre on Friday 4th December between 3pm and 7pm. Our PTFA are hard at work already planning lots of stalls and games for everyone. Please do come and support.

It wouldn't be a proper Christmas without a children's nativity and this year ours is being held at St Dunstan's Church on Tuesday 15th December. Rev. Paul Redpath will lead our youngest children from classes 1 and 2 through a short service while our older children from classes 3 and 4 will take part in a carol service, also at St Dunstan's Church.

It simply remains to say 'We wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and Lots of Mince pies!!'

For information regarding the school call the school office tel. 822584 or visit www.ashurstwood.w-sussex.sch.uk

Public Services Committee.

One of the actions arising from the Village Plan was to investigate improving the pedestrian access to Forest Row adjacent to John Pears Field. The Committee have looked at options for this and liaised with both East and West Sussex Highways, Mid Sussex District Council (who own John Pears) and local land owners. However they have failed to resolve this problem successfully as the land needed to provide an extension to the footway is privately owned. Whilst the road safety of this continues to be of concern and will be monitored, no action is currently possible.

Football Club Parking.

Following the Council receiving complaints about the parking problems in the village at weekends, a meeting with both Football Clubs, Sussex Police, Mid Sussex District Council and Councillors was arranged. The Clubs have asked visitors to be considerate of others and park safely. A note about restricted parking will be posted on the website and some sessions will be held in East Grinstead— they already use West Hoathly for some teams. A cap has been put on for one age group. The Police will monitor the situation and everyone at the meeting was supportive of the proposed waiting restrictions (double yellow lines). The Council confirmed that they want to continue support the Football Clubs but also have to represent the concerns of others in the village. At the end of this positive meeting it was agreed to meet again to review progress.

Bus Shelters and seats.

The Council are pleased to have installed perching seats at two more bus stops in the village and have agreed with a local contractor to renovate the War Memorial Bus Shelter. Please could everyone respect this shelter— a notice board will be provided for notices and anything placed elsewhere will be treated as fly posting.

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**

Karen Lindsay, **824831**

Brian Phillips, **824154**

Jonathan Samways, **322226**

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

New online Business Directory from Mid Sussex District Council

Mid Sussex District Council has just launched a new on line business directory for Mid Sussex. This is a fully searchable database of approximately 3,500 businesses located within the district. It will be an invaluable source of information for businesses to trade with each other within the District, and for companies outside the District to source new business contacts in Mid Sussex. It will also be a valuable reference for residents wishing to source local products and services.

The directory will be continuously updated, and will also serve as a link to a host of advice, information and services available to Mid Sussex businesses.

Mid Sussex companies of all types and sizes are invited to register on to the directory now, or to update the company's details if it is already included. Each company can upload its own details, logos and any other appropriate material relating to their business. And it's all free.

To register, or to update existing company details, go to www.midsussex.gov.uk/businessdirectory and follow the instructions on screen.

For more information, contact Steve Tilbury, Economic Development Officer at Mid Sussex District Council on 01444 477347 or e mail SteveT@midsussex.gov.uk

Postal Scam- warning from Age Concern.

As Xmas is fast approaching be careful- this has been confirmed by Royal Mail. The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the

Following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICSTIS (the Premium rate service regulator) at www.icstis.org.uk

New Guiding Company for Ashurst Wood.

Ruth Foreman and Rebecca May are starting a Guiding Group in the village and this starts on Thursday 19th November at 7.15pm and will take place in John Pears Pavilion on alternate Thursdays. Do go along or contact Ruth or Rebecca 01342 356319 for more details.

Neighbourhood Watch: A new area co-ordinator has been found!

Chris Reece has kindly agreed to take over from Peter Melody to work with the street co-ordinators and act as liaison with Sussex Police.

He can be contacted on 01342 825046 or email at christopherreece@tiscali.co.uk.

On behalf of the whole community the Parish Council would like to thank Peter Melody for the excellent work he has done, also of course to thank Julie May who is continuing as assistant co-ordinator.