

THE PARISH MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2003

Ashford in the Water & Sheldon

www.ashfordinthewater.com www.saintmichael.org.uk

Ashford's Junior Choir to Sing at Village Institute.

Gwen Pykett writes

Holy Trinity Ashford's Junior Choir will be providing the entertainment at the village institute's "Winter Warmer" on Saturday December 6. The choir will also sing at several local nursing homes during the Christmas Season. I would be thrilled to have some additional village youngsters join us to swell the ranks for these events. They should be old enough to read words, but do not need to be able to read music.

We will be rehearsing this special Winter Warmer music at the church from 6.00pm - 6.30pm on Thursday evenings. Immediately following, from 6.30pm - 7.00pm, will be the normal junior choir practice, during which we rehearse anthems to be sung on Sundays in church. We sing on Sundays once about every four to six weeks. Any new singers who join us for the special Winter Warmer rehearsals are also invited to join the junior choir, and learn the Sunday anthems with us.

For more information, please call me at (01629) 815802. •

Great Longstone Pre-School
are holding a

Nearly New Sale

on Saturday, 8th November

10.30am- 12 noon

in Longstone Village Hall

Lots of bargains in good quality children's clothes

Toys, books, videos and equipment.

Get there early!

Guide Dogs for the Blind

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of John Windle, our Trading Secretary, who has been responsible for ordering all our sales goods - he will be missed by us all, not only for his efficiency but for his dry good humour and his craftsmanship (our tombola unit, thanks to him, is the envy of many other groups).

But life goes on, and events continue, though with a bit more difficulty. We were at a cold and blustery Bakewell market stall, and will be manning the Methodist stall in November.

On a lighter note, Maurice's Arnie, so we are told, would like a bit more respect now that the new Governor of California shares his name!

Longstone New School Hall Grand Opening Ceilidh

on Sat. 29th Nov. 2003 at 8pm.

Tickets £5 per adult, children free.

Bring your own booze (soft drinks will be on sale). A chance for all friends and past pupils to see the new hall and have a laugh! Tickets will be available from school and Mr. Casey's shop. We still have many thousands of £s to fundraise, despite the building actually being completed, so your support for school events is much appreciated.

Sarah Trezise-Hardinge

In this issue

- Regular Reports
- Local Hero (see Ashford Notes)
- Sheldon Newsletter

Sundays & Festivals

1 Nov	Sat	All Saints Day
2 Nov	Sun	All Saints Sunday
9 Nov	Sun	Remembrance Sunday
16 Nov	Sun	2nd before Advent
23 Nov	Sun	Christ the King
30 Nov	Sun	Advent 1

November Services at Ashford

2	Sun	9.45am	Sung Eucharist
6	Thurs	10am	Holy Communion
9	Sun	10.30am	Remembrance Service followed by Holy Communion
13	Thurs	10am	Holy Communion
16	Sun	9.45am	Sung Eucharist
20	Thurs	10am	Holy Communion
23	Sun	9.45am	Sung Eucharist
27	Thurs	10am	Holy Communion
30	Sun	9.45am	Sung Eucharist

November Services at Sheldon

9	Sun	3pm	Remembrance Service
23	Sun	9pm	Holy Communion

November Services at Wardlow

2	Sun	9am	Family Service
16	Sun	9am	Holy Communion

The Methodist Chapel Great Longstone

Minister - The Rev. Margaret Roe 812195

Sunday Services at 10.30am

The Roman Catholic Church

6.15pm	Saturday Mass at Bakewell
9am	1st Mass at Bakewell (Hassop 1st Sun.)
10.30am	Mass at Hassop (Bakewell 1st Sun.)
4.30pm	Eucharist Bakewell (2nd Sun.)

November Services at St. Giles

2	Sun	8am	Holy Communion
		11.15am	Family Service
		6.30pm	Evensong
5	Wed	9.30am	School Assembly
9	Sun	10.55am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial then service at St. Giles' church
		6.30pm	Evensong
12	Wed	10 am	Holy Communion in the choir vestry
16	Sun	8am	Holy Communion
		11.15am	Sung Family Eucharist
		6.30pm	Evensong
19	Wed	11am	Holy Communion at Thornhill House
20	Thurs	7.30pm	Confirmation
23	Sun	11.15am	Sung Eucharist
		6.30pm	Evensong
30	Sun	11.15am	Sung Eucharist
		6.30pm	Evensong

Friends of Longstone School

Saturday 8 Nov, 2003 At 6.30p.m.

Longstone School

Bonfire and Fireworks Party

Moor Rd, Great Longstone.

Entry (on the door, or tickets available outside school the week before at 3.45pm.) £2 adults, £1 secondary school age, other children free but must be accompanied. Lots of fun, but please no sparklers. BarBQ and soft drinks will be on sale, and "glow in the dark" novelties. Any help building the bonfire and clearing the field the following morning would be much appreciated. Wood can be donated the week before the party, taken to Mr. Spink's field, left tidily only on the LEFT HAND side, near to the wall. Any wooden furniture or doors must have hinges, screws and nails, etc. removed if possible, as we spent hours sifting through the ash last year, to make the field safe for live-stock to return. Thank you.

Remembrance Sunday

High Streets everywhere will soon be blossoming with red poppies: everyone from toddlers in prams to old grans will be wearing one. By Remembrance Day over 40 million are expected to be sold around the county by an army of many thousands of volunteers. The money raised will help our ex-Service people and their dependants. To achieve all that takes more than flower power. The annual Poppy Appeal is a highly sophisticated operation manned by a large permanent staff and more than 5,000 voluntary local organisers. Each year there are new angles in the advertising campaign to be decided on, regional launches with celebrities to be organised, and the national launch to catch the imagination of the media.

It is a sobering thought that we have just completed the bloodiest century that the world has ever known. More people died in wars last century than ever before in the history of mankind. Many millions of those died fighting fascism or communism. A new Millennium, and yet again we are at war - this time with terrorism. While accepting that an extended detention may be a practical necessity, I find it hard to see how locking people for months on end without trial, as the US is doing with prisoners from Afghanistan and elsewhere, is promoting the values we treasure of the rule of law, democracy and freedom of speech. These values are the very ones we would want to see thrive in certain states and have gone to war to this end. •

Confirmation 20th November

Adults wanting to enquire about confirmation should contact The Rev'd Clive Thrower, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Great Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1TB of telephone 01629 640257.

Sheldon Jottings

Jenny Spafford writes

The Harvest Festival service was held on a glorious autumn day and it was so nice to see Diane and her children there, all the way from New Zealand. The magnificent total of £150 was raised later at the Harvest Auction.

Since writing the last Jottings we have all had most comprehensive notes of the Village Meeting for September. So many things going on and so efficiently orchestrated. All Sheldon news including Jottings and Parish Meeting notes, Service times etc. can be viewed anytime on the internet on www.saintmichael.org.uk.

I have been fortunate enough to have been taken round Ivy Cottage, long-time home of M. & Mrs. Ben Sheldon, now beautifully renovated by grandson Alan Clarke into a large and spacious dwelling. It is now to be suitably renamed Sheldon House leaving only one Ivy Cottage remaining.

Two daughters of Sheldon, who live outside the village, will be producing infants by Christmas and I've been told that now two of the three "houses for sale" have been sold so I should be welcoming our new residents soon.

We have lost one Village Hall Trustee this week and another is urgently required. Please have a good think and then offer your services. Also, the Secretary/Trustee will be leaving the village in the New Year and anyone willing and able to take on this basic service would be welcome to sit in on the next couple of meetings to get the gist of things. Trusteeship is for a limited period only.

There is a wonderful new stone slate roof still in progress in Sheldon that looks very nice indeed.

Next skip 7 .45am - 9.00am Saturday 1st November. •

Notes from Ashford PCC Meeting 24th September.

Church Re-decoration

It was agreed that the church should be re-painted when it is dry enough. The mullions are to be left as natural stone and those that are already painted should be left as they are without any attempt to clean or sandblast off the paint. No estimates are available yet but Rev. Clive said that as it will cost over £2000, two or three quotes should be obtained from architect approved firms.

Sound System

The new wall-mounted speaker in the vestry was proving very useful for the Sunday school. Jim Storr explained that the free-standing speaker, stand and lead would provide a microphone at the preaching cross and an external speaker all plumbed into the current system. Once it had been tried out there should be no need to hire additional equipment for future well-dressing services.

Child Protection

Our Child Protection Officer, Hilary Hull had now been given a list of the relevant names of people who need to be checked for the register.

Maiden's Garland

It is proving very difficult to contact Caroline Rendell about the repair to the damaged garland. Yvonne Skipper will write once more to ask if she can carry out the repair, if not if she can recommend someone who can. John Foster recommended contacting the insurers.

Sunday School

Ian Pykett acknowledged that the new display board erected in church obstructs access to the rear pew, but it can be folded away when necessary. Rev. Clive expressed his thanks to Ian, saying that the display honours the work of the Sunday school and indicates to visitors that children are welcome in our church.

Vestry Items

The October magazine published a list of unwanted items from the vestry. No action will be taken until someone expresses an interest in any of the items. The wheelchair is to be checked to ensure that it is safe. (Since

the meeting was held, the Ashford Friendly Society banner has gone to a good home after a generous donation was received from the interested party, and the Girl Guide and Cub Scout banners have been returned to their relevant organisations.)

Tree in Churchyard

This is still obscuring the view from Mollie Smith's window. Chris Crowther asked for it to be cut back again. Unfortunately, the more it is cut back the more it grows and it would prove too expensive to keep asking the Peak Park to deal with it. John Winkworth-Smith and John Foster keep cutting it back whenever possible. Rev. Clive said anybody could have a go at the lower growth if they wished.

Church Flowers

Mrs. Constance Foster had written to express concern that the removal of flowers after a wedding often left the church without flowers on Sunday. John Foster suggested that the church adopts the policy of asking the bride/bride's mother to leave two arrangements in church after a wedding, as is the practice in Bakewell.

Fabric Report

John Foster said there was nothing in particular to report apart from an ongoing list of jobs. Everything is in fair condition. He said the heating would now be turned on in church and hoped to organize some Saturday morning working parties in due course. The church clock is misbehaving again. John was to put it right after the meeting and it was agreed that we should take up Tyrone Holmes kind offer to fit a new switch free of labour charge. Rev. Clive or John would go up the tower with him.

Duty Rotas

John Foster emphasised the importance of only doing what can be done properly. It was agreed that the flower arrangers should do two weeks at a time. The biggest problem is the lack of servers; it was agreed that some of the younger people should be encouraged to join the rota, possibly some of the recently confirmed young people. The Sanctus bell could be rung by a member of the congrega-

tion to avoid disturbing the choir. Rev. Clive spoke about the value of the servers and agreed that a sermon on the ritual of the Eucharist would be useful.

Locking and unlocking the church

Jim and Caroline Storr and Ian Pykett are to take over locking the church from Maurice Eccles. Ian will have Maurice's key. Our thanks go to Maurice for carrying out this task so faithfully for so many years. Lillian Edwards has kindly agreed to continue unlocking the church unless the ground is icy.

Renewing Ministry

A detailed discussion was held on this subject during which Rev. Clive thanked Ian Pykett for his report on the Springboard Workshops, "Restoring Hope", which he had attended in June. There will be further discussion at the next PCC meeting. The Treasurer and Churchwardens will be attending meetings arranged specifically for holders of these offices.

Any other business

Two rusting flower stands are to be repaired by Stan Walker, who has kindly offered to do this task. Ron Daybell is to retire as team leader for bell-ringing and suggested that Linda Pelc becomes Tower Captain. Ron will continue as secretary and give Linda the tower key. Rev Clive endorsed this move. Ian Pykett offered a vote of thanks to Ron for all he has done over the years. Ian has also volunteered to become a member of the Deanery Synod. There is still a vacancy for a third member from Ashford. Ian expressed his pleasure at the enthusiasm for bell-ringing among the young people and suggested that their contribution should be given public recognition, perhaps in the form of a certificate of competence presented in church. Rev. Clive offered to host a Christmas party for the young people. Dorothy Daybell expressed her concern about the lack of progress in investigating and obtaining grants. She made the point that grants cannot be obtained retrospectively. Rev. Clive assured her of the value of her comments over a whole range of subjects.

Ashford WI Meeting

Jean Beard writes

After the completion of business on 2 October, President Mrs. Ann Lindsay announced details of a WI Coffee Morning to be held at Ashford School on Thursday 30 October 2003.

She then introduced the speaker, Mr. David Tideswell, whose talk was entitled "Garden Birds". Mr. Tideswell showed many beautiful slides of birds and of his garden, illustrating the ways in which bird life could be attracted into a garden. His talk drew many observations from members and guests who all spoke about the birds, which visited their own gardens.

Mrs. C. Foster, in giving a vote of thanks to Mr. Tideswell, said how lucky we were to see such a variety of birds in Ashford.

Tea Hostesses, Mrs. P. Hollingworth and Mrs. G. Marvin, served cake, scones, biscuits and tea.

The raffle was won by Mrs. J. Pepper and Mrs. P. Sheldon won the competition for the most attractive bird ornament.

Next Meeting: 6 November - Speaker Mrs V. Millburn on " Antiques Road Show". Visitors and guests welcome. •

Film Society

9 November 2003

Bakewell Town Hall 7:30pm

Brighton Rock

Brighton Rock is one of the finest British thrillers ever. Richard Attenborough stars in perhaps the most memorable role of his career as the murderous leader of a gang working the Brighton racetrack. Beautifully shot, British film noir. 1947.

We started our new season last month with 'The Caretaker'. That was our first showing with our new equipment. A big screen, big speakers and DVD projection turned the old court room at the town hall into a cinema. Brighton Rock is on the big film rolls - 16mm. We have a new better projector for this also. All are welcome.

Ashford Parish Council Meetings Summary of July, August and

September 2003

1. Post Box: Royal Mail have informed us that they are not allowed to install post boxes onto private or third party property and therefore it is not possible to install a post box in the wall of the bus shelter. They also state that the volume of mail posted in Ashford is too low to warrant any other type of post box

2. Rights of Way: The parish council is in the process of registering all Rights of Way in the village to ensure their continuity for future generations, including the footpath situated between Hill Cross and the Hall Orchard.

3. Transportation of Ashford schoolchildren to Longstone School: Derbyshire County Council have informed us that the route remains designated as "non-hazardous" for the purposes of home to school transport. With regard to the concerns about the location of the bus stop, the County Council have referred the matter to the Public Transport Unit. Mr Pryor, headteacher of Longstone School, has also been requested to take this matter up once again with the LEA. A quotation of £2,600 + VAT had been received from the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents for carrying out a survey of the route, but this unfortunately is beyond the means of the parish council precept.

4. Dog Litter: The possibility of dog waste bins for the village is being investigated.

5. Allotment: Mr C Whitham has completed the work on the allotment, which is now available for use by Mr Edmonstone.

6. New Signs in Hall Orchard: New signs are being obtained for the Hall Orchard.

7. Dales Housing are attending to the following matters:

- a) High Wall, Vicarage Lane: needs urgent repair.
- b) Fence on the Donkey Path: needs urgent repair.
- c) Street Light, Vicarage Lane: A tree is obliterating the street light at the point where the footpath joins Vicarage Lane.

8. Parking ~ Highfields Car Park: Mr Crofts of Dales Housing had reported that some confusion had arisen regarding the allocation of parking spaces, due to the fact that the owner-occupiers of Highfields were guaranteed a parking space on the car park when purchasing their homes. It was agreed that this is a matter for Dales Housing rather than the parish council and any further problems should be referred to Dales Housing accordingly.

9. Saturday Morning Waste Collection Service: The next date on which this service will take place is 1st November at the following times:

9.15- 9.35 a.m. A6

9.35- 9.55 a.m. Old Baslow Road

9.55- 10.15 a.m. Highfields

10.15- 10.45 a.m. DDC Car Park

10. Donations to Ashford Post Office: Great Longstone parish council had been approached regarding a donation to Ashford Post Office as many Great Longstone residents use this facility. However, they are unable to help due to other commitments, but will reconsider the situation for the next financial year.

11. Minutes of Parish Council Meetings: Parish Council minutes are to be published on the parish council notice board prior to the approval by the parish council.

12. Hill Cross: Cty Cllr Twigg had received a letter from Derbyshire County Council stating that if Hill Cross were to be made into a one way system, this would have a negative effect on reducing vehicle speeds because there is no opposing traffic to slow vehicles down.

13. Speed of Traffic - Highfields: The parish council have requested the County Council to move the current sign to a more prominent position on the opposite side of the road, as the current sign is obscured from view.

14. Grass Cutting: A complaint has been made to the County Council regarding the poor standard of grass cutting in the village.

15. Bakewell & Ashford Flood Alleviation Scheme: The planning applications for the

reached between the Environment Agency and the residents concerned.

council's response was required by the beginning of September. Despite the difficulties of a considerable number of people being away on holiday during August, the parish council has made every endeavour to ensure that all parishioners were given the opportunity to state their views regarding this very important project. A public meeting was held in the War Memorial Institute on 26th August, at which it was generally agreed that flood alleviation measures were required in the village. The parish council also held a site meeting immediately prior to their September meeting in order to assess the full impact of the scheme, and have responded as follows to the planning application: Ashford-in-the-Water Parish Council in principle support the application, but have some reservations about certain details, as listed below:

1. Landscaping Profiles: for example, the bund at Rookery Cottage.
2. Sheepwash Bridge: Any work undertaken on the Sheepwash Bridge should be agreed in detail prior to commencement, including timescale.
3. Visual Impact: particularly in the Sheepwash area.
4. Walls and Bunds: Any walls or bunds should be designed so that they cause minimum visual impact and should be of the lowest practical height.

Particular, individual concerns have been expressed by the following:

1. Bridge House: Mrs Blackwell is extremely concerned about the loss of view to the river.
2. Miles Croft, Buxton Road: Mr & Mrs Herdman have expressed considerable concern.
3. Rookery Cottage: Mrs Shand is concerned about the loss of her 'secret garden' containing a swing for children, the loss of trees and the damage to her view.
4. Cherry Close: The residents of Cherry Close have reservations about the initial plan, but the parish council understands that an agreement in principle has been

16. Planning Matters

- a) Application -Churchdale Lodge -Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use of Land: The Clerk was requested to reply, stating the parish council's objection to this.
- b) Application -Thornbridge Hall Education Centre: Re-roofing of 4 existing buildings and erection of new rope climb, caving system and boulder at existing outdoor education centre: The Parish Council support this application.
- c) Decision: Devonshire Weir, Watts Green: Permission granted.
- d) Decision -Appeal: Great Batch Hall: Appeal dismissed
- e) Decision -Hall Orchard Buildings: Conversion of Barn to Dwelling: Granted subject to conditions.
- f) Decision -Rookery Cottage: Form Ground Floor Cloakroom: Refused
- g) Application -The Banks and Bed of the River Wye between the Rookery and Old Mill House: Flood Defence Scheme comprising the Construction of Flood Walls, Flood Embankments and Drainage Works: The parish council commented as follows: The parish council agree in principle with this application, but at the site meeting held on 9th September, at which representatives of The Environment Agency and Atkins were present, it was suggested that metal railings would be more appropriate than a wooden fence. The Atkins and Environment Agency representatives both stated that they could see no objection to this. The parish council now notice from the plans that a wooden fence is proposed, and this is not what the parish council were led to believe would be proposed. A wooden fence will create shadow, spoil the view of the river and will not be as durable as metal railings.

17. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Tuesday 30th September 2003 in Ashford School.

Sheldon Parish Meeting

Newsletter September, 26 2003

John Herbert writes

A good meeting on Thursday evening and thanks to all who attended and contributed so thoughtfully and helpfully. Many good points were raised and decisions made about future plans. Chris will shortly put the formal minutes of the meeting on the notice board, but as usual, for everyone, an unofficial run through what we discussed/decided.

Natural Gas

As you know we've been considering how best to get British Gas interested in the possibility of bring gas to the village. They are very hard headed and commercial about this--it would, they say, cost so much, which we would have to pay, as to not be possible. However discussion at the meeting suggested that it would be worth while continuing trying to get them to see the benefits for us and them of a reasonable price, and so we will continue discussions with them. There might also be the possibility of some grants.

Finance

Brian tabled our latest statement of accounts and explained the healthy position we find ourselves in. Thanks to Brian for the excellent way in which he manages our finances and makes the accounts so transparent for all to see and understand. A copy will be on the notice board but briefly we have a balance in the Parish meeting account of £1475-83; a balance of £2884-27 in the village greens project account; and £2009-55 in the Playing Fields account. Total income from the three accounts so far this year is £9367.80; total expenditure so far this year from the three accounts is £2998.15. This gives us a balance of £6369.65 although there are still payments to be made for audit costs (£60) internal audit honorarium (£25); and Hall fees (£16). We have very low grass cutting costs as we've received a grant to cover most of the costs of the greens this year and reimbursable footpath costs (£60-90).

We have accepted a quotation for maintenance of the playing field of £750 which is totally reimbursable from DDDC. The

trench which as dug for the underground electricity cost us £450. So we are in a healthy position.

The precept will be set at the next meeting towards the end of October.

Vacancies

I mentioned in passing that there would shortly be vacancies for a trustee and secretary of the Village Hall as well as a parish clerk and deputy chair of the Parish Meeting. These vacancies will need to be filled and further discussion will take place at the next meeting of the Village Hall trustees to be held shortly and at the next Parish Meeting in October. So we'll be looking for volunteers!!!!

Playing fields update

The electricity wires have now been put underground so that part of the future plans have been completed. We looked at a draft plan kindly drawn for us by Peak Park of the way the playing field would look if we go ahead with the woodland/playing area/picnic/ wetland idea. There was general agreement that it looked good, and the next meeting of the playing fields committee will hear from the Peak Park woodlands officers about how to proceed and we will report back at the next Village meeting. The plan will be on the Village Hall notice board so please have a look and discuss. Thanks to Martin Swindell for offering us the use of some of his students on work placement if we need to use them for any work on the Playing Field. We will.

Sewage work

Severn Trent say that the plans should be finalised in the next few weeks and planning permission will then be sought. They are waiting for some final feedback from the consultants on the second part of the work, the associated sewerage improvements to upgrade the system in the lower part of the village to remove the existing storm water overflow adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage. The land purchase negotiations are more or less complete and the tests on the soil in the field being used for the new plant are satisfactory. They are now in the process of getting the relevant quotes for the work. The start date is next spring for completion later in the year.

boundary wall to be moved back a couple of metres is now almost complete and the resulting sum will pay for the trench that was dug in the playing field and there will be some over. So we will do OK out of it. The plans for putting the electricity wires underground from the pole in the lane to the church are also well under way and should be completed shortly. Work can then start on that part of the project. The new plant will in fact be built on site, being transported there in small sections on small lorries so there will be no problems with access.

Bridge and Footpath

We received a letter from the Peak Park Rights of Way officer last month about the proposed public bridleway. We are now in discussion with the Environment Agency about any flooding implications and we are in discussions to establish whether planning permission will be needed. Everyone is in agreement in principle; now there is the question of funding which both the Peak Park and County Council are investigating. The work is so important that hopefully they will find the necessary funds to start the work as soon as possible, once all the planning is complete. More on that at the October meeting.

Kirkdale speed limits

There was considerable discussion about the increasing speed of motorists through the village using the road as a shortcut to the dale to and from Buxton etc as well as the dangerous speeds that some motorists unaware of the dangers of the bottom of the Kirkdale road drive. Horses are particularly at risk (although the new bridleway will of course take them on a safe path). We agreed to ask the Highways Department again about ways in which speeds can be reduced and awareness increased at the dangers of this part of the road. I will write to the relevant authorities asking for reconsideration of a reduced speed limit of about 30 mph and the possible introduction there of some form of speed reduction on the road (humps or equivalent were suggested as possibilities).

We will also explore the possibilities of making Sheldon an access only village...more on this at the next meeting.

Trees

There was discussion about what to do about replacing the two trees that had to be cut down on the greens. There was agreement that we would send a short questionnaire to everyone asking for comments about our future policy about (a) whether any trees should be replanted to replace the two which have been cut down; (b) if the answer is yes, then what kind of trees, (c) and very importantly for the nearby residents, where they should be planted. We'll send that questionnaire round to everyone shortly and discuss the findings at the next Parish meeting. This is an important decision for the future of the village and needs to be made by everyone. Nearby residents of course are rightly concerned about the problems of roots from the very large trees that could be planted and this needs to be considered as well. On the other hand, trees are very important to the outlook of the village and the beauty we now have in the village needs to be protected for future generations. Remember that we are a conservation area and any tree pruning or felling must be approved beforehand by the Peak Park (which basically means a simple short letter saying what you intend). If you want to do any pruning or felling for any reason and would like us to help writing the letter, no problem, just let us know and we'll send it for you. Peak Park will then give every help and advice they can. So it's worth doing it.

New signs

We have complained to the Highways Department about the way in which they replaced the village sign at the top of the village (using the old rusty and dirty posts instead of using new ones as they have done at the bottom of the village). These will shortly be replaced to complete the job satisfactorily.

Enforcement notices

These have now been implemented fully and the process of removal has begun. However the property in question is now to be sold so any additional problems that could have arisen probably now won't.

Peak Park membership

not formally previously at a Parish meeting, I have now been elected a member of the Peak Park on behalf of the Parishes in Derbyshire Dales. I have attended a number of meetings and next week will be at the annual conference as a Peak Park delegate in Wales. I am now on the overall Policy Committee and Peak Park management Committee. Please let me know if there is anything you wish to have brought to the attention of Peak Park Committees or officers.

Sheldon Day Money

The Sheldon Day money has now been split into two and given to the Village Hall and Church. Rev. Clive has given the village grateful thanks for the kind donation. The Village Hall trustees would also like to thank the village and Sheldon Day organisers for the donation.

Cream teas

The last cream teas of the year were again very successful. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Village Plan

I mentioned the need for us to write a Local Village Plan for Sheldon. This will provide a blueprint for the future and give the village protection as well. The plan is something which we can do in conjunction with the relevant officers of the Peak Park and will allow us to tap into significant grants for any work we want to do in the village to make it a better, safer place. For example it will allow us a grant for a regular village newsletter such as this one. This will mean setting up a small independent committee to pursue the work on this. Other villages in the area, such as Monyash) are already doing it and it will be beneficial to us in all kinds of ways. I will ask the peak park officer who will be helping us to attend part of the next Village Parish meeting.

Village tidiness

People often remark on how beautifully well kept the village is, and it is a credit to everyone that this is the case. A couple recently have commented to me about an increase of dog fouling on the main road through the

village (and in fact occasionally in the village hall garden). It's good to remember that in our village, because there is so little footpath (and none at the bottom of the village at all) that the main road is also in fact our footpath on which we all walk. So could we remember to keep our dogs under control so that they do not foul either the footpath or, importantly, the road or driveways (which does happen regularly at the bottom end of the village). It would be a tragedy if we had to put up no-fouling signs. So a little consideration will solve the problem.

Grants

Our village has now been included in a widened area for aggregates tax funding grants. They are now looking for applications for the next round of grants which could be for such things as village hall roof repairs, pointing, the bridleway footpath at the bottom of the dale. So landowners, schools, religious groups and local parish councils and meetings are eligible to apply for any conservation work and other improvements to the life of the village. All we have to do when applying is to show that the work will bring about sustainable environmental and community improvements. So let me know if you have any ideas. We'll certainly be applying for money.

Horticultural Show

This went very well indeed from all accounts, and thanks to Ralph for his time and effort in organising the event which is always an important and enjoyable one. And it raised a good amount of money too. Thanks to everyone who took part.

See you all at the next meeting in October (Chris will let us know the date nearer to the time).

Friends of Longstone School

October Lottery Winners

1st Joyce O'Brien

2nd Sara Hodgson

3rd Edna Gundry

Sally Kehr

New Bell-Ringers of Ashford

Clive's column "Signs and Symbols" in the August/September issue prompted me to write to thank all those, from Holy Trinity Ashford and beyond, who have been so welcoming and supportive of us trainee bell-ringers.

Having been bereft of the beauty of church bells for 22 years, Gwen and I are both thrilled to hear once again the sound that we took so much for granted before we moved to the United States. There are about 5,000 towers in England that practice change ringing, but only about 250 in the rest of the world, and a mere 36 on the North American continent. The nearest one to us at our home in New York State was 200 miles away in Boston. So it was with great delight that Alexander and I were presented with the opportunity not only to hear change-ringing, but also to practice it ourselves!

I have been even more excited to witness the enthusiasm of so many new young bell-ringers. Shortly after Alexander and I started we were joined on practice night by several other school-children from the village. It's certainly challenging for me, as a late starter, to keep up with these young people who are mastering so rapidly the basics of this art.

On Sunday, August 3, it was wonderful to see three of those enthusiastic young people ringing before the service (James Fern, Samantha Fern, and Alexander Pykett). There are several other youngsters learning with us on Tuesday evenings, and I'm sure you will be seeing them soon also on Sundays. I'm sure they would be thrilled to talk to you about their new-found skill - please encourage them to continue to learn more about this age-old custom, and to improve their skills further!

Thanks to all the teachers and band members including especially Linda Pelc, Ron Daybell, John and Christine Boyle, John Thorpe and, last but not least, Clive himself. And thank you, also, to all the villagers who listen every Tuesday to our practice - I trust you will be able to discern steady progress!

Ashford War Memorial Institute

Dorothy Daybell writes

By the time this magazine is published we will have had our first "Live & Local" performance - "Explosion" by Brekete. There will also have been another quiz night - and we were dismayed to hear that Dave Davies will soon be leaving the neighbourhood and will not be able to be our question master again. How we shall miss him and Chris - we wish them well in their new home.

Our next meeting (11th November) will consider letting charges, which have not been altered for two years - bookings continue to be very good, but we must keep a weather eye open for the future. Watch out for our annual "Winter Warmer" event with mulled wine and mince pies on Saturday 6th December, when we are promised entertainment by the junior choir from Holy Trinity Church. In the meantime there will be another line dancing evening on 15th November. •

Friends of the Derwent Rural Counselling Service

invite you to "A Comic Review"

at the Medway Centre, Bakewell

on

Saturday, 22nd Nov. 2003

at 7.30pm

Tickets £15.00 to include 'Light Bites' in the interval - Licensed Bar

All proceeds from this event towards DRCS counselling support for children.

Tables for 6 or 8 people can be booked in advance.

Tickets from Mrs. Wendy Logan, Tideswell Lodge, Tideswell SK17 8LH

Ashford Notes

Yvonne Skipper writes

At the end of September the funeral of Jack Prescott was held in Holy Trinity church. Jack was well remembered in the village, having been landlord of several of the surrounding local hostelrys, including what used to be the Devonshire Arms, now the Ashford Hotel. The church was full of people paying their last respects to Jack as a friend and companion who had fought in the last World War. Our sympathies go to all Jack's family and friends. Two weeks later, the church was filled again with friends and family for the funeral of Betty Holmes. Betty had been ill for some time, but fought her setbacks so bravely, striving always to retain that wonderful smile of hers. Our sincere condolences to her husband Byard and all her family and friends.

At our service on 5th October, the Junior Choir entranced the congregation with a short anthem. They are doing so well now and our thanks go to Gwen and Ian Pykett for all the work they do with the children.

On Friday, 10th October, we had a lovely wedding in church, when Claire Nightingale and Nigel Lough were married. We send Claire and Nigel all our best wishes for a very happy future together.

Our Harvest Supper was held on Saturday, 11th October in the War Memorial Institute. This was very well attended and everybody had a lovely time. The game of "Beetle" was enjoyed, especially by the children, and the more energetic amongst us welcomed the chance to work off some of the pie and trifle supper with some country dancing, tutored by Linda Foster. Thanks to Linda and all those who made trifles and helped in the kitchen, to make the evening such a success.

At our Harvest service the following day, it was lovely to see so many children bringing up their gifts to the altar. Thank you to all those who gave produce and helped to dec-

orate the church. Another gift was given on Harvest Sunday to young James Fearn, whose quick thinking and fast reactions had prevented a terrible accident two Sundays earlier, when a marble memorial tablet had fallen from a wall in the belfry. Very well done, James, and our grateful thanks to you. In the October edition of this magazine, a list was printed naming items for disposal from the vestry. If anyone is interested in making an offer for any of these items, please contact either Rev. Clive, John Foster or myself. Several people have already expressed an interest in the Ashford marble desk stand, so it has been decided that the fairest way to deal with this is to ask for sealed bids. These should also be given to Rev. Clive, John or myself before 30th November. This will be the closing date for any offers. •

Beat 'Flu With A Jab

All people aged 65 and over need to book an appointment with their GP practice for a free 'flu jab this autumn. People with certain heart and lung problems and other serious conditions will also receive a letter from their GP inviting them to get a free jab. The 'flu jab is also being offered to people living in residential and nursing homes and other long stay facilities.

Local GP practices will be offering the immunisations throughout October and November. People should contact their local GP practice to arrange an appointment for a jab or to find out when the 'flu jab sessions are being held. Many practices run sessions where an appointment is not required. •

Magazine Contributions Copy deadline for the December issue is Wed. 20 Nov. Disk or clean typed by Mon. 24 Nov. E-mail to clive@thrower.org.uk or post to The Vicarage, Church Lane, Gt. Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1TB.