

ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

www.aspleyheathparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk



PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman: Sally Smith	Footpaths including Aspley woods
Vice Chairman: Gill Clough	Newsletter
PCllr. Jack Hobbs	Planning
PCllr Sheena McQuillan	Planning
PCllr. Alison Shirville	Planning, Signage & Jubilee Gardens
PCllr. Chris Southgate	Homewatch Co-ordinator & Signage
PCllr. Paul Temp	Friends of St Michael's
PCllr. John Towriss	Footpaths including Aspley woods
PCllr. Piers Willmott	Finance

R. Robson-Green remains as link to George Wells Educational Trust (ex-councillor)

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Editorial comment:

Aspley Heath Parish Council have three vacancies. Please consider joining our friendly team – there is a short description of what we do on page 4.

AGM 2019

The 2019 Aspley Heath Parish Council AGM will be held on:

Wednesday 1st May at 8:00pm at the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall

Refreshments

Invited speaker – Mr. Bob Holland

Senior Ranger the Greensand Trust

Talking about

Cycle x the new development at the **Steeleys site**, and
Aspley Heath woods – permissive paths,
Off-lead dog walking, conservation etc

THE GEORGE WELLS CHARITY

The George Wells Educational Trust was set up with money bequeathed by George Wells of Wavendon to provide assistance to scholars. The charity now offers students up to the age of 25, who are full time College or University students or taking NVQs and who live in the Ancient Parish of Wavendon which includes the original part of Wavendon, Woburn Sands and Aspley Heath, an opportunity to make one claim per year from the charity. Any claim a student makes must relate exclusively to the costs incurred in relation to books, uniforms and equipment required as part of their course of study.

To apply for a grant requires fill in an easy application form and return it together with receipts for costs incurred. The grant cannot be used to cover the costs of printer cartridges, computers or travel expenditure.

For further details and how to apply, go to Woburn Sands Town Council website. Click on *Our Community*, then *Student Grants*.

ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

We have three vacancies on the Parish Council and invite you to think about joining us.

If you enjoy how living on the Heath makes you feel and want to be part of a friendly team that helps to keep the Heath in good order then this could be for you. We would welcome additional enthusiastic people.



Time commitment is not high. We meet a maximum of 10 evenings a year, on the last Wednesday of the month for about 2 hours. You can be as involved as you want or have time for.

We are trustees of the sandpit but as we have no other amenities within our parish such as shops or schools, means we are a relatively quiet parish. The principle workload comes from planning applications. We have an active planning team in place, but help is always welcome if you are interested in this area.

Otherwise a presence and voice is all that is needed.

To register an interest or just find out more please contact our parish clerk and perhaps come along to your parish AGM on 01/05/2019 at the Ellen Pettit hall 8pm for an informal chat

Aspley Heath Parish Clerk: Denise Batchelor
clerk@aspleyheath.org.uk

NEW PARISH BENCH

The bench at the junction between Narrow Path and Sandy Lane was rotting and nearing the end of its life. The Parish Council have commissioned a shiny new bench with a plaque in memory of those lost in WWI which reads:

1918 – 2018
‘We will remember them’
Aspley Heath Parish Council



THERE BUT NOT THERE

The WWI commemoration event, organised by the Aspley Heath Parish council together with St Michael's church and local schools, was held at the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall on November 10th 2018. Music from the era filled the air and the hall was filled with fascinating displays and memorabilia. It really felt as if we had stepped back in time. The event was a great success.

A wide range of WWI artefacts and posters brought back memories for many.

Visitors were invited to make a poppy and write a message to a WWI soldier. The poppies were attached to our Tommy silhouette.





Tommy, our black silhouette, has been relocated next to the WWI graves in St Michael's churchyard.



Homemade tea and cake were in plentiful supply and the theme of poppies continued throughout.



TOM DIXON STOCKS 1896-1918

‘A precious memory left behind.’ By Judith Heywood

Judith put together a display table, and kindly agreed to share this account of her great uncle Tom and of her journey to the place where he died and was buried for our newsletter.



On the 15th April 1918 2nd Lieutenant Tom Dixon Stocks and his fellow soldiers, who were part of the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, were moved forward into trenches along the bank of the Aire La Basse Canal near Bethune. At 6 pm that evening the battalion crossed the Pont Levis Bridge to commence the attack. Tom Dixon Stocks was my great uncle and the Battalion diary of the day states 'the operation was not a success'. Tom Dixon Stocks was listed as one of the officer casualties who died that day.



Myself, my brother and sisters and partners decided that we wanted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death by tracing the movements of his last day and hopefully, 'walking the walk' using modern maps and the 1918 trench map for the area.

Our walk began at Mount Bernenchon just south of the canal from where we walked to the canal bank. We were immediately able to identify the trench line running along the



south bank of the canal and were able to compare it with a photograph we had found of soldiers facing the canal from trenches in the

same area.

Pont Levis Bridge has been replaced by a modern road bridge but again a photograph from the Duke of Wellington Regiment archives showed a working party crossing the canal by a footbridge and gave some idea of the crossing – a very narrow bridge, crossing in single file when at 6 pm it may well have been starting to get dark.



It was a privilege to be asked be part of the exhibition organized by Aspley Heath Parish Council and St. Michael's and I was very touched by the number of visitors who were interested in the story of these two members of my family.

We do not know Tom's reasons for joining up – was it for 'King and Country', did he think it would be a great adventure to leave home and travel to France having no knowledge of the conditions he would face, was it an opportunity to be with friends?

By Judith Heywood

Sources and acknowledgements:

Caroline Ogle, Tim Stocks and Penny Stocks who helped with the family research.

Duke of Wellington's Museum, Halifax

www.mairie-hinges.fr www.pinterest.co.uk

Aspley Heath Parish Council

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LITTER PICK SUN 28TH APRIL 2019, 10 AM

Help the parish council clean our woods up. All welcome. Meet at top of Church Road by gate. Bring gloves. Bags provided. See you there.



A big thank you to all those residents that pick up litter on a regular basis helping to keep the parish a place to be proud of

SPEEDWATCH



We are aware of the mixed views on whether speeding is a problem on the Heath. Our aim, by carrying out a few sessions a year, is not to catch people speeding but with our presence just remind people of the 30 MPH speed limit. Anyone interested in helping please contact the Parish Clerk.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

A further update

The previous edition of our newsletter predicted that work to complete the extension of superfast broadband, to residents at the top of the hill, would be completed before the end of 2018!

Sadly, although this prediction was based on good advice, it turned out to be wildly optimistic.



Readers will probably have seen that a new green cabinet, elegantly labelled “21”, has been installed on Church Road nearly opposite Werth Drive. At the time of writing this has not yet been powered up and connected to the Openreach network. Until this has been done, there is no possibility of obtaining a better

service. Hopefully, the “civils” work in the pavement and on Church Road itself will be completed soon so that the existing traffic disruption will come to an end.

We believe that the problem is finding the room for larger ducting for the fibre optic so that is why it is taking longer than expected.

NOI LADIES ACCORDION ORCHESTRA TO PLAY AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

This all-squeezing, cake-loving, tea (and wine!) drinking band of lovely talented ladies has enthralled audiences across the country, in village halls, ballrooms, festivals, fetes, parties, piers and pavilions. With the unexpected sounds of multiple accordions ably led by Musical Director Jane Ward, and played with sensitivity, versatility and a unique style of charming idiosyncrasy, many an accordion-phobe has been made to think twice! An afternoon or evening in the company of the NoI Ladies offers the delights of waltzes and tangos, film music and hornpipes, bellows and banter, jollity and jigs! An orchestra, the likes of which has never been seen or heard before, promising fun, frocks and frolics, with a delicious recipe of musical treats to make your hearts sing and bring a smile to your face.

The Ladies will be playing in St Michael's Church on Saturday 18th May at 7:30pm. Don't miss out!





An evening with the

No.1 Ladies Accordion Orchestra



From across the UK,
playing tunes from around the world

St. Michael's Church

Aspley Heath,
Church Rd, MK17 8TA, Woburn Sands

Saturday, 18th May, 2019
7.30pm (doors 7pm)

Tickets: £8 (£6 unwaged) by email:
no1ladiesaccordion@gmail.com or online:-
<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4108863>

....or on the door!

www.no1ladiesaccordionorchestra.co.uk
no1ladiesaccordion@accordionladies

*There will be
homemade
cake!*

HOMEWATCH IN ASPLEY HEATH

HomeWatch is a group of residents who join together to help protect themselves and their properties from criminal activity, to reduce the fear of crime and to improve their local environment. The primary objective is to look out for one another and report any crime or suspicious activity to the Police. By working together as a group, rather than as individuals, households can employ effective crime prevention measures and achieve safer communities to live in.

Aspley Heath HomeWatch liaise with Policing Teams on a regular basis enabling a two-way flow of communication and keep households abreast of issues affecting our neighbourhood.

The purpose of HomeWatch is to report suspicious events to residents and to police. This becomes more important as police resources are reduced and tasks are prioritised elsewhere. People can really make a difference to the safety of our community by reporting what they see.

All the houses in the Parish of Aspley Heath that are involved in HomeWatch have been allocated a street co-ordinator (approximately 20 houses each), with a central co-ordinator who receives information alerts from RINGMASTER, a computerised system run by Bedfordshire Police, informing them about crimes, incidents and event in our area. The central co-ordinator, in turn, shares this information with the street co-ordinators who forward the information to their allotted residents. In addition, if any co-ordinator is made aware of incidents by local residents, this information is also shared among the co-ordinators.

If you would like to be join a HomeWatch group, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@aspleyheath.org.uk

SECURITY ASSESSMENTS

A serious burglary took place recently in Aspley Heath. To help ensure that we are all well prepared and understand how to maximise the security of our homes, Bedfordshire police are offering a free security assessment to any of our residents for their home and themselves. To arrange a security assessment, please contact

Gill Richardson, PCSO3659

Force control 101

mobile 07931294618

email gill.richardson@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Gill has said that she is happy to visit and talk through any concerns on security and recommend safety in our homes.

CONCERNING THE HEATH

Hedges

Thanks to all residents who have trimmed their hedges. More of the pavements are now visible and it is becoming easier to walk up and down Church Road. It is still worth cutting hedges back a little more each time – if you look under the hedge, you can see where the edge of the pavement is still hidden. Cutting back a little further each time makes a difference.

Please get in touch to let us know what is important to you on the Heath by contacting the Parish Clerk at clerk@aspleyheath.org.uk

Contact the Parish Council

Denise Batchelor

clerk@aspleyheath.org.uk

