

50/50 lottery winners



Ashton Village Group

November 2025

1st prize - Pat Phillips	£60.00
2nd prize - Brian Jolly	£45.00
3rd prize - Diane Shadforth	£15.00
3rd prize - Marion O'Meara	£15.00
Church Donation	£150.00
Christmas Bonus Total	£158.00

December 2025

1st prize - Sarah Bullock	£59.00
2nd prize - Ron & Linda Hall	£44.75
3rd prize - Diane Shadforth	£14.75
3rd prize - Maddie Johnson	\$14.75
Church Donation	£147.50
Christmas bonus Leslie Godfrey & Sarah McAllister	£86 each

January 2026

1st prize - Izzy Lane	£61.00
2nd prize - Steve Ferguson	£45.75
3rd prize - Marion Wilson	£15.25
3rd prize - Geoff Middleton	£15.25
56 Members Church donation.	£152.50
Christmas bonus total	£15.25
60 Members	-----

It is never too late to join the 50/50 draw.

For more information, Contact
Bron Kenny (01604 864914)
bronkenny@gmail.com

Knight Hall DROP-IN

It started up several years ago as a venue - the Knights' Hall, in St Michael's church -for villagers and friends to meet up and have a coffee, tea and a chat on the third Saturday in each month. Fortunately it is very well supported with an average of twenty people each time from a group of about thirty five. We often have young children and babies which delightfully lowers the demographic aspect! Some people pop in for half an hour or so and some stay the whole hour and a half from 10.30 to midday. It is always busy and the highlight most months is the 50/50 draw when we have to stop talking to hear the numbers called! People also enjoy browsing through the books, bring those they have read and leave with different ones.

Quite often in the Autumn months gardeners bring produce and lately we have a wonderful craft stall which boosts the takings immensely. Our prime motivation is social but the money raised helps to maintain the fabric of our beautiful church. In 2025 this was £531.44.

Our future Drop -In are on Saturday 21st Feb, March 21st, April 18th so come along and have a coffee and a chat. **All welcome!**

ASHTON Village News

Issue 188
Spring 26

Easter Special!

A Fun Sunday/
Youth Group event



Good Friday 3rd April

4.00-5.30pm

Ashton Church

Easter activities for children of all ages:



- Easter egg hunt
- Easter crafts
- Easter story
- Ice-cream sundaes



• **All welcome! Parents can stay or go!**



PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman - cllrmcallister@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk - clerk@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
V, Chair - cllrroychoudhury@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Police Liaison - cllrbullock@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Neighbourhood Watch - 07753 727707
Playground - clerk@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Maintenance - clerk@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Playground - clerk@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Useful Contacts

Parish Council www.ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Police 101 or (999 in an emergency)
Police <http://www.northants.police.uk>
West Northants Councilor Fiona Cole
07977501573 fiona.cole@westnorthants.gov.uk
MP for South Northants - Sarah Bool
sarah.bool.mp@parliament.uk
Village Internet Site - www.ashtonvillage.co.uk

Articles for AVN to Jeremy Roy, 8B Hartwell Road Telephone 864306 or

jeremysroy@gmail.com



Ashton Parish Council
www.ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
clerk@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Your local parish council needs passionate residents to help make decisions and shape the future of our area. If you want to make a real difference, please contact a Parish Councillor, details on back page.

VILLAGE SPEED LIMIT

We are working hard to get a reduced limit of 20 mph in the village. We have invested in speed signs which also records speed data.

Our new green 20 mph speed signs are now in place. Speed signs will be reset to trigger at 20mph.

WATER COURSES IN THE VILLAGE - FLOOD PREVENTION

Winter/Spring heavy rain can affect village flooding. This has become a more frequent issue. Residents need to maintain their bank sides by clearing the watercourse banks to help alleviate this problem, as they overgrow very quickly. Owners have riparian duties for ensuring that the flow of water is not interrupted. A full explanation of requirements can be found at the environment agencies web site.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

Please contact APC if you need assistance in understanding this.

If you would like to become a flood warden please contact the Parish Chairman.

STREET LIGHTS

Two new street lights have been ordered for the corner of Hartwell Road at the bridle way turn and further down the road towards little Ashton. The two lights are to be erected on the 17th & 18th Feb and National Grid will connect the power supply 23rd & 24th Feb. There will be a road closure on these dates

NOTICE BOARDS

These are updated monthly. We are going to replace the current ones as they are no longer waterproof or closing properly. **Please try to use A5 posters or email us with your notice.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We will send out alerts to the village via email. You can get more information and register with the scheme <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk>

DOG POO

Please can everyone pick up their dog mess on walks and take it home to put in your bin. We are investing in bins for the village. Updates to follow.

The Ashton 50/ 50 has welcomed three new members recently. This is really heartening news. For only £5 a month you have a chance to enter the draw which has 4 prizes every month. Anybody, over 16 years of age can join.

For more details contact Bron Kenny, the Coordinator 07734 690060

bronkenny@gmail.com 07734690060

Restart Rugby and Speakeasy

Men's Own are proud to support Restart Rugby and Speakeasy by welcoming walkers on 26 March who are walking from Saints to Saracens over three days... the walkers will be arriving at 9.30 am, with (we believe) some Saints players. It would be amazing if some of the village could join us to welcome them in...



ACSC Social
Membership

£24.00

Recurring payment

Powered by **GoCardless**

Ashton Community Sports Club - Membership

The facility formerly known as Men's Own RFC is now Ashton Community Sports Club a space dedicated to bringing together people of all ages, abilities, and interests through sport, health, and community spirit. To support ACSC please become an annual member which will allow you free hall hire, very reasonably priced drinks, massive screen showing of live sports events and of course to watch live Men's Own rugby.

Ashton Church - Sunday Services

**1st Sunday of month 9.30am –
Morning Prayer led by David Holmes**

**2nd Sunday of month 4.00pm-
All age service led by David Holmes**

3rd Sunday of month 10.30am-

Family Communion service led by Rev. Mark Donnelly

Spring, Lent & Easter

As winter loosens its grip, Spring quietly arrives among us. There's something deeply reassuring about the first signs of change: snowdrops pushing through hard ground, longer evenings, birdsong returning to our gardens and lanes. Spring doesn't shout its arrival. After months of cold, darkness and rain, we hope that the signs of Spring are a harbinger of good things to come. And so it is.

In the Christian calendar, Spring coincides with the season of Lent. Lent is sometimes misunderstood as gloomy or restrictive, but at its heart it reflects the rhythm we see all around us at this time of year. It is a season of slowing down, of honest reflection, of clearing space. We have been trying to de-clutter! Success is gradual but at last I can see the bottom of the filing cabinet drawers! Just as a gardener prunes back dead growth to make room for new life, Lent invites us to pause and ask what might need attention in our own lives. What habits have become overgrown, cluttered? What worries or distractions are crowding out what really matters?

Lent lasts forty days and leads us deliberately towards Easter. It mirrors the journey from winter into spring: a time that can feel stripped back, even uncomfortable at times, but one that is always moving towards hope. In a busy world that prizes speed and productivity, Lent gently suggests that growth often begins with stillness and renewed faith.

Then comes Easter, bursting in with colour and celebration. Churches fill with flowers, the word "Alleluia" returns, and the story at the centre of the Christian faith is proclaimed: that life is stronger than death, light is stronger than darkness, and love ultimately wins. Easter is not just about what happened long ago; it speaks today and into the future. It reminds us that endings are not always final, and that even after loss, disappointment, or long winters of the soul, new life can and does emerge.

For those who hold the Christian faith, Easter is the foundation of hope. For others, its themes still resonate deeply. Who among us does not long for renewal, for fresh starts, for signs that broken things can be restored? As we grasp hold of this we can find that it's the bedrock of life and the foundation for everyday life, not just once a year.

As we enjoy springtime in our village — in gardens, fields, footpaths and shared moments — perhaps this season offers an invitation to all of us. To notice the quiet miracles of growth around us. To make space for reflection. And to hold on to hope. Because spring, like Easter, gently insists that life is always capable of surprising us with something new.

Rev'd Mark Donnelly - Interim Priest in Charge

The Salcey Benefice **01604 378557**

Ashton Parish Council

DEFIBRILLATOR & BLEED PACK

Our village has these on the Pub Wall, by the bus stop, under cover of the porch. They are registered with the Emergency Services. Always **ring 999** to access them

GARDEN FIRES

We have had reports that people are having garden fires during the daytime. We have many residents with lung issues and people putting out washing on nice days. It was generally agreed years ago that fires would only be lit after 7pm.

Please be considerate of your neighbours.

Many thanks. Sarah McAllister – Chairman APC

COMMUNICATION – Ashton Village is on the following Social Media sites:

Ashton Village Support Group - to join we need your mobile telephone number. People offer help (post office, shop runs etc) and there is information, chat and brain-teaser quizzes on here.

Find the village on Facebook – **Ashton Village, South Northamptonshire NN7**

ASHTON CRAFTY FOLK



A little update on the Ashton Village Craft Exchange. Hello 2026 here we come, but first a look back at 2025.

We had some fun towards the end of last year with some of us learning how to make Christmas gifts for friends and family, also beautiful Christmas wreaths to brighten up our front doors for the Christmas season. We also created some flower arrangements, in Pumpkins that anyone would be proud of. This year we hope to continue in the same way, meeting up for a chat and exchange of ideas twice a month. If you feel that you would like to join us please contact Pat Myles on 07503219917 and I will add you to the group.

Many Thanks Pat Myles 07503219917

A Strong Start to the Season at Men's Own

The rugby season has got off to a positive start at Men's Own, despite a couple of unavoidable hiccups along the way. The irony of dealing with a leaking roof at exactly the same time as a burst water pipe was not lost on us. We'd like to thank everyone for their patience while Anglian Water resolved the issue after several false starts.

We were also delighted by the fantastic turnout for Bonfire Night. It was wonderful to see so many people at the club enjoying a brilliant fireworks display. Our thanks go to the Parish Council and JMB for sponsoring the fireworks, as well as to all the volunteers who helped organise the event and clear up afterwards — particularly impressive given the wet conditions.

Looking Ahead

The club will be open for all the main Six Nations fixtures — please keep an eye on the village group for confirmed opening times.

We also have several special events coming up:

- **14 March** – Sponsors' Day and Super Saturday for the Six Nations. Join us to watch Men's Own in action and enjoy the thrilling finale of the championship.
- **18 April** – Memorial game in memory of Simon Evans, a village resident and long-time supporter of Men's Own, who was rarely far from a pint or the pitch and even ran out for the team on a few occasions. We look forward to welcoming back former players alongside our current squad. We are also planning to open the refurbished back bar, made possible through Simon's legacy.
- **30 May** – The final game of the season against touring side Nestlé Rowntree RFC, which promises to be a great occasion.
- **27 June** – *Save the date!* Ashtonfest with live music, food, activities for children of all ages, and, of course, a few beers with friends and family.

All home games kick off at **2.15pm** at this time of year:

- 21 February – v BBOB 2
- 28 February – v Stewart's & Lloyd's 2
- 14 March – v Scouts Occasionals
- 21 March – v Heathens
- 28 March – v Kettering 3



If you'd like to volunteer at the club, please contact **Laura on 07852 719025**. If you're interested in training or playing, please contact **Nick on 07887 712554**.

For venue hire enquiries for parties or other events, please email info@ashtoncsc.co.uk.

Road Junction Community Group



Road Community Library – Latest News



Extension: RPC and Roade Library are excited to announce that the Roade Library extension is finished and open for use.

So, it is now available to hire for meetings, clubs, small events and other activities.

When not reserved, it will be used as part of the Library.

Rhymetime - Rhymetime sessions of 30 minutes, are 11am and 1pm every Wednesday, including school holidays. All

under 5s and their parents/carers are welcome. Currently the 1pm session is more suited to babies and less confident toddlers. Even if your baby is sleeping, why not pop them in the pram and come along to meet with other mums, dad's or grandparents. The library is warm and welcoming. We look forward to seeing you.

Friday afternoon Tea/coffee club –Where we have delicious homemade cakes and some savoury pastries, with tea and coffee available between 2 and 4pm. We can now also offer barista style pod coffee. **Jigsaw Club:** Marion who runs our jigsaw club has just added more new jigsaws for you to borrow, so for just £5, annual fee, you can borrow any of our **200+** jigsaws throughout the year. All checked and guaranteed complete. **Supporters' Club Membership** - We have a 'Library Supporters Club'; for those who want to help the library financially. The subscription is £2.50/month or a discounted 27.50/year, the membership year runs from 1st April. This is invaluable in helping us continue. Our **Lego Club** (for ages 4 to 11 years) has restarted after the Christmas break and we have a theme each week, but if you want, you can continue a previous build as we hold your creations for up to two months. To join it cost £5 for a year's membership and £1/visit. **We meet at 09:30 Saturday mornings for 1 hour.** We are looking for people to help with the club on a rota basis. Please contact Roger wood if you are interested (07891 765663) **New Books:** We refresh our book stock regularly and have a display of new books, (some just released), as you enter the library. We also have a suggestion box, where you can suggest a book, author, or series of books, for us to consider when choosing the next delivery.

Film Night: We also had another Library film night in January showing Downton 'The Grand Finale' which had a capacity audience and was enthusiastically received.

Future Events

Quiz Night: We are having another, eagerly awaited, 'Library Quiz Night' on Saturday the 21st of March.

Spring Fayre: This year our Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday 25th April.

More Library Volunteers are needed- So if you are interested in doing something worthwhile, please call-in and pick up a volunteers form and join our friendly group. or email rogerwood01@icloud.com to find out more.

Thank you to everyone who supports the library.

Roger Wood – Chair

Spring Events at Ashton Church!

Mothing Sunday 15th March 10.30am
Family Service followed by coffee and cake. Children will be able to give their mums and all the ladies in the congregation, a posy of fresh flowers.



Palm Sunday Service 29th March 10.30
Benefice service followed by refreshments.

Good Friday 3rd April 4.00-5.30pm
Easter activities for children of all ages:

- Easter egg hunt
- Easter crafts
- Ice-cream sundaes



Easter Sunday 5th April 10.30
Easter family service followed by Easter refreshments.



Ashton CEVC Primary School



It has been a splendid start back to the new academic year. The children have settled in beautifully and have been working incredibly hard in class on a range of fun and exciting topics.

Along with the usual diet of reading, writing and maths, the infants have been finding out about changes in recent history in their topic "Peak into the Past", whilst the juniors having been embalming oranges in their ancient Egypt topic!

It was lovely to take the children down to Ashton Church for our annual harvest service. In preparation, the Infant Class had made a variety of paper fruits and vegetables with what they were thankful for written down the sides. The Junior Class composed acrostic, haiku and tanka poems to read out to the congregation. It was a wonderful atmosphere, and thank you to all the parents and friends of the school who turned up to listen to and encourage the children.

On Friday 19th September, we had a company come into school who treated the children to a VR morning. Here, everyone in the school got to take part in activities that were centred around a virtual reality introduction. The students absolutely loved it. The following Friday, the school was lucky enough to experience a woodwind recital. They heard lots of wonderful music and got to ask questions about the instruments and musicians they were listening to.

The buzz around school has been reflected in the interest we are receiving from prospective parents in our open evenings. Already we have had lots of families through the doors, looking around the school and many more are booked in for future dates. If anyone is interested in looking around for next September, please feel free to visit our website for dates or give the school a ring to find out when you could come in for a visit.

Looking ahead to next term, along with all the usual learning and activities in school, we can look forward to returning visitors coming in to give a hedgehog talk and renovating our current hedgehog tunnel. And of course, it wouldn't be Christmas at Ashton without the whole-school nativity! I hope that the coming weeks and the Christmas period finds all of you well.

Best Wishes

Mr Goddard (assistant head)

History of Old Ashton : By David Farrand

Spring 2026 Issue - Ashton Floods

On a topical note with the relentless rain, we can look at how Ashton coped in the past.

Ashton people talked of the bad floods of 1885. When the stream which runs through the Hartwell Road Green rose above the small culvert and over the road, the water went right up to Orchard Cottage. On that occasion the small Brice children living there, were ferried over the water in a washing tub, with a line prop to steer by.



Charles Eale's Cottage

1925 was a notable year for Ashton floods, Mrs. Frank Patrick was five when she came to Ashton, she said "My first Impression as I sat on the basket that held my pet cat were the floods at Bozenham Mill. I wondered how far the water would come up the cart as the horse plodded his way through on his way to Ashton".



L-R Charles Eales, Bert Godfrey, Jack Frost

Then there was the great flood of 1939, when the village was cut off for three days. Mr. Charles Eales, who was working at Bozenham Mill Farm, got up early one October morning in his cottage, now sadly demolished, on the north-east corner of Hartwell Road Green.

"I didn't know a thing about it until I came downstairs and stepped into water up as high as the first step of the stairs, at least six inches deep. It was dark and I managed to grope until I found my Wellington's and opened the front door, I could hear the water swirling over the bridge as I felt my way down to the gate, nearly getting swept off my feet as I opened it, the rush of water was so great".

I called Mr. Frost next door at Rectory Farm House and he said, "I'm not going out without a cup of tea."

After we had it, we called for Bert Godfrey, he was working at Rectory Farm, He said "I haven't any Wellingtons, you'd better go without me" so I said "Come on, get up on my back" and I carried him all the way down to Bog's Island. When we got there it was just as bad as in the village. I said "I can't carry you any more, Bert", and he replied "That's alright, mate, put me down, now we're here".

We still have floods in Ashton and many in the village today can remember times when we have been cut off as in those earlier days.

Note: Bogs Island and Rectory Farm are located close to the river Tove, near Bozenham Mill Farm.

MOTHERS DAY MENU - OLD CROWN
 Mother's Day is on the Horizon. Please secure your reservation early to avoid disappointment!
 Call us on 01604 862268 to book.



The Old Crown



TAPAS

- Marinated Olives & Feta £7.5 V GF
- Crispy Tofu, Edamame Beans, Chilli & Soy £7.5 GFA VE
- Halloumi & Sweet Chilli £8 V GF
- Smoked Salmon, Horseradish Crème Fraîche. £9 GF
- Buffalo Cauliflower Bites £7.5 GF VE
- Hasselback Potatoes, Roasted Garlic Aioli £7.5 V
- Calamari, Roasted Garlic Aioli £8.5
- Hot Honey BBQ Chicken Wings £8.5 GF

STARTERS

- Soup of the Day, Warm Bread £7
- Brixworth Pate, Chutney, Ciabatta £9
- Welsh Rarebit, Sourdough, Roasted Cherry Tomato £9 V
- Classic Prawn Marie Rose, Toasted Bread £10
- Toasted Breads, Marinated Olives, Oils £13
- Baked Camembert with Nduja or Caramelised onion, Ciabatta, Tomato Chutney £17

SUNDAY MAINS

- Roasted Rump of Beef £19.95
- Roasted Leg of Lamb £19.95
- 6 Hour Braised Pork Belly £19.95
- Braised Blade of Beef £20.95
- Roast Chicken £18.95
- Chestnut and Mushroom Roast £16.95 V
- Three Meat Roast £23.95
Beef, Lamb, Pork Belly
- All served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables, red wine gravy
- Extra Roast Potatoes £4.5
- Cauliflower Cheese £3.95
- Extra Yorkshire Pudding £1

THE GRILL

- Cajun Chicken £19 GF
- 10oz Rump Steak £24 GF
- Cut of the Day POA GF
- All Served with Chunky Chips, Mushroom & Tomato
- ADD ONS**
- Garlic Butter £3 GF
- Beef Gravy £3 GF
- Pepper Sauce £3 GF
- Aji Verde £3

www.ashtonvillage.co.uk is being re-purposed as a dedicated history of Ashton.
 For more information on Ashton's history, email david@farrand.co.uk

VE vegan VEA vegan alternative V vegetarian GF gluten free available D dairy free
 Gluten free alternatives are available, please ask a member of staff