

Around Ashton

Community news from Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel Parish Council
Winter 2025



What a wonderful year for Ashton Hayes. The Village Hall, and the Sports and Recreation Association (AHSRA) have both received significant grants for improvements to their premises. We seem to have finally managed to get the support and involvement of Cheshire West and Chester in cleaning up the gullies around the village and to also seriously address the flooding problems that affect parts of the village. In addition, of course, we can't forget the biggest thing to have happened in many years – the reopening of The Golden Lion. This only happened because of the significant involvement of so many volunteers from in and around the village. The buzz that now surrounds The Golden Lion (and the Village Shop!) reflects the wonderful community spirit that exists within Ashton Hayes.

2025 has been a great year, let's hope that 2026 is equally good.

The Parish Council continues to be proud to represent our wonderful parish, and all the councillors wish every resident

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

STOP PRESS!

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Parish Council Update

Parish Calendar



We are delighted to announce that virtually every group/organisation within the parish is now signed up and using the Parish Calendar to advertise their events.

The calendar is a one-stop shop to find out what is happening in our village.

You can access the calendar from the Parish Council website at

<https://ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-calendar/>

or by scanning this QR code:



The Christmas events are starting to appear on the calendar so check it today! You may miss something if you don't.

Farewell Parish Rooms!



Most people will be aware that the Parish Rooms in West End were sold at auction in September and are no longer owned by the Parish Council.

The Rooms were given to the village just over 100 years ago and have served the village well during that time. Over the years, the Rooms were used by many local groups for their meetings, they were the home of the Parish Council, served for a time as a nursery and even as a small library.

Unfortunately, since the COVID-19 pandemic they were used very little and ceased to pay their way; they would have also required considerable renovation work over the coming years. Many of you will have been involved in the consultations with the Parish Council over the last eighteen months where the financial problems, and the Parish Council's plans, were explained.

The original gift was conditional upon the provision of a hall for the parish, and consistent with this gift, the Parish Council made a formal decision at the September Parish Council Meeting that the funds received from the sale should be transferred by a formal loan agreement to the Community Benefit Society to complete the renovation work on The Golden Lion and to make available an area within the premises which will be able to serve as a new 'parish room'. The parish council hope to start holding their meetings in this new parish room area from January.

Meanwhile, we understand that the new owners of the old Parish Rooms have intimated that they wish to convert them into residential use and hope to preserve the character of the exterior. A new era begins!

Parish Council Update

Advance Notice Household Survey 2026



As it is some time since the Parish Council last asked residents for their views, we will be undertaking a new survey during 2026.

The purpose of the survey will be to get your views on what you think are the most important concerns in the parish and to make sure that the Parish Council is focusing its efforts on the right issues that concern you.

There will be more information on this in the spring issue of Around Ashton, so watch this space.

Village Speed Limit Changes

On the 8 October 2025, CWaC confirmed that the section of Church Road outside Ashton Hayes Primary School was to be reduced from 30mph to 20mph. This follows an assessment led by CWaC based on the type of road that the school entrance leads onto.

This change is much needed, but please note, the 20mph change only applies during specific periods, primarily around school drop off and collection times, outside of which the limit returns to 30mph.

The change is scheduled to be implemented in March 2026.

The parish council has been advised that the planned permanent speed limit change from 30mph to 20mph between the sports pavilion (ASHRA) and Ashton House Nursery, which was approved for implementation last year, will be completed before the end of the year.

Household Insurance Useful Information

If you have not heard of the Flood Re scheme before and your home is in an area that might be prone to flooding we would urge you to investigate it.

This is what it says on the Flood Re website:

‘Every insurer that offers home insurance in the UK must pay into the Flood Re Scheme. This Levy raises £160m every year that we use to cover the flood risks in home insurance policies.

Flood Re works with insurers behind the scenes. When you buy home insurance cover, your insurer can choose to pass the flood risk element of your policy to us for a fixed price.

If you make a valid claim for flooding, your insurer will pay the claim. Later on, we’ll reimburse that insurer from the Flood Re fund.

In short, you buy home insurance in the usual way. We cover the flood risk and that helps to keep your premiums down.’

To find out more and see if your insurer is using the scheme go to <https://www.floodre.co.uk/>

Community Clean Up

A huge thank you to all the residents who turned out on Saturday 18 October for the autumn clean-up. You did a magnificent job and we hope you enjoyed the cake afterwards! See you all in next spring.

The parish council would also like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who regularly pick up litter as you are walking around the parish. You do an amazing job in helping to keep the area so clean and tidy. On behalf of all residents, THANK YOU 😊

If you would like to be on the clean up mailing list just drop us a line at

communitycleanup@ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk



Around Ashton Publication Dates for 2026

Watch out for your copy. If you would like to submit an article for consideration please send it to aroundashton@ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk by the deadlines below.

Edition	Publication Date	Deadline for Receipt of Articles
Spring	Monday 2nd March 2026	Friday 6th February
Summer	Monday 1st June 2026	Friday 8th May
Autumn	Monday 31st August 2026	Friday 7th August
Winter	Monday 30th November 2026	Friday 6th November

Ashton Scout Hut

Following the closure of Ashton & Manley Scout Troop two and a half years ago, considerable effort has been devoted to ensuring that Scouting continues to be present in Ashton. The most important aspect has been the young people. We were fortunate that an Ashton resident, Ruth, volunteered as a Scout leader enabling us to take 5 of the Ashton Scouts into the Tarvin Troop. They have thrived in the new environment, attending camps and taking part in the Cheshire hike with 3 of them achieving the Chief Scouts Gold Award. They have now all reached the top of the age range for the Scout section but it's good to see that some are remaining in Scouting both as Explorer Scouts and as Young Leaders with Beavers and Cubs.

One of our aims has always been to ensure that the Scout Hut remains available for use in the area by young people, both Scouts and Guides. Following a period of discussion, Chester District Scout Association agreed to a merger of Ashton & Manley with 1st Tarvin to form Tarvin & Ashton Scout Group. This, together with a new agreement between Ashton Hayes Parish Council and the new Group, means that we are able to devote the funds of the old Ashton Group, including grants received during Covid, to renovate the hut. We have tried to use local contractors where possible and at the end of 2024 estimates were obtained for essential electrical work and repairs to the cladding.

Tying up legal agreements took longer than expected - no surprise there - and by the time we were ready to start, we found our contractors were busy on the Golden Lion. Residents will have seen work taking place on the hut during the summer. The site and hut are now both safe to use with Cubs and Guides having used the site for fire lighting. There is still a significant amount of work to do on decoration and refurbishment of the kitchen but it's good to report that a group of Ashton volunteers who helped on the Golden Lion have offered to help. Over the winter period use of the hut is likely to be limited but it should become busy from spring onwards.

Most of the youngsters who join us at Beavers continue through Cubs and Scouts with a number becoming Young Leaders. We want to make the opportunities which Scouting provides available to more young people in the Tarvin, Ashton and Kelsall area but to do this we will need more leaders. We are planning to step up our recruitment efforts from early 2026 but if you would be interested in joining us, please do not hesitate to contact either 1sttarvinscouts@gmail.com or robinturney@btinternet.com. It can be very rewarding as well as great fun.

Robin Turney, Chair of Trustees, Tarvin & Ashton Scout Group.

Ashton Hayes Sports & Recreation Association

AHSRA is a charity run by volunteers to provide community Playing Field and Playground facilities. Owned by our community and funded by our community, with oversight by volunteer trustees and free to use 24/7.

Trustees ran a face to face survey over the Summer to gather feedback and assess usage. Including players and spectators of 66 football matches played in the 24/25 season and attendance at events, it's estimated that there are over 34,000 visits per year.

Improvement works took place in recent months, only made possible due to successful funding applications:

National Lottery Community Fund £19,500. An application was submitted and accepted for bark chippings, fencing and a second gate for the playground, additional safety signage as required by insurers and to cover specialist pitch mowing costs.

Cheshire Community Action £500. Awarded following an application to fund a fixed netball post, which had been requested by our community.

Cheshire West and Chester Council funded the pitch refurbishment works, consisting of the application of a weedkiller, mechanical aeration (punching holes in the pitch), top dressing with a sandy loam and reseeding. The impact on pitch health is already apparent, ensuring a good playing surface for matches and social play. Thanks for arranging this go to Tarvin AFC's Robin Grimshaw and to John Seilers from CWAC for organising the works by Swiftgate.

New goal posts bought with Football Association funding earlier in the year are now installed, and the main and smaller pitches remarked.

Who pays for everything else?

The ongoing costs of running the facility are currently around £9,000 per year and, while the lottery grant is helping out this year, AHSRA unfortunately is projected to run at a deficit for the foreseeable future. This would mean having to start using some of the reserves set aside for repairs and emergencies.

What costs are there?

Field and pitch maintenance, insurance, health & safety inspections, security, heating and lighting and waste collection make up the bulk of costs. However, it is also necessary to maintain the pavilion, fences, gates, benches, car park, paths, playground and adult gym equipment and anything else within the facility's boundary, such as signage and trees, and equipment such as gazebos and furniture.

What pays the ongoing bills?

Football pitch / changing room rental, pavilion room hire, solar panel income, donations, fundraising by volunteers (pop-up cafe etc), income from AHSRA events ('Village Fun Day' and 'Christmas Tree Lighting' etc.).

What can we all do to help?

It's vital that we continue to look at ways to support our fantastic facility and to do this you could:

- Hire the pavilion room for social event or meeting
- Spread the word that the venue is available
- Make a donation or encourage others to donate. (More to follow on a JustGiving Page)
- Attend AHSRA events. Buying food, drink or a raffle ticket is a great way to contribute while having a good time.

Looking for new Trustees

AHSRA are continually looking for people of all ages to become a Trustee. It's very rewarding when you see how much people enjoy using the playing field. Details of what is involved are on the AHSRA web pages or contact ashtonhsra@gmail.com to arrange a chat to find out more.



Web Pages for Pavilion, Playground and Playing Field:
<https://ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk/ahsra/>

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO
YOU ALL,
FROM THE
MEMBERS OF
ASHTON
HAYES WI**

Another few months have passed by all too quickly, but life goes on as usual and we will have held our AGM by the time you read this. We decided this year, that for our final two meetings of the year, we'd change our start times and begin at 2pm in the afternoon, thus avoiding the need to come out on a cold, dark night - no doubt in the pouring rain! Before our AGM this year, we'll have been instructed in the art of napkin folding by Gillian Forgrave - there'll now be no excuse for the Christmas dinner table to look boring this year! Our December meeting will take the form of a social afternoon in St John's and instead of our usual meeting in January, we'll be enjoying lunch at The Golden Lion - yummy! Over the last few months, some of our members have enjoyed trips out, including a coach outing to Haworth and The Bronte Parsonage in Yorkshire; Storyhouse in Chester was the venue for the Cheshire Federation's autumn meeting, where the guest speaker was Aled Jones and finally, the Weaver Vale Group lunch at Frodsham Community Centre welcomed a contestant from the Great British Sewing Bee as their guest speaker.

Our dart's team started practicing last month for the County Dart's Competition - Round One and the Group Dart's Match, which Ashton Hayes won last year. Our bowls team practised on The Goshawk's green and then played in the group competition at The Hazel Pear. We gained a place in the quarter finals for Cheshire, where we played at the Owley Wood ground in Weaverham.

Our usual meeting times are on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm - unless otherwise stated on the poster in our notice board outside the Community Shop. The WI is a national organisation, with local roots. It is still fighting for good causes and equality, as well as supporting the environment and anything that improves the quality of life. For more details about Ashton Hayes WI, please contact our President, Margaret Sheppard on 01829 752455.



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Ashton Hayes Allotment Association

Yet another peculiar season in a peculiar year. By the end of August most vegetables that were not being well watered had dried up, the grass managed close on a month without a cut and a bumper crop of apples were ripening early.

Those who took late holidays were astonished, on their return, by the growth spurts initiated by a modest September rainfall; yet the ground remained dry enough for enormous cracks to linger. Growth continued into October with pumpkins as the star performers - good enough to make a harvest festival centre piece. Apples continued to swell; cosmos, nasturtiums and marigolds have provided colour but brassicae have fallen foul of insect pests.

The favourable weather has resulted in amazingly favourable digging conditions, so a number of plots are looking tidy for the autumn with just the odd rows of leeks and chard remaining for harvest, and a few early planted broad beans as a sign of hope for things to come!

The Michaelmas clean-up is due a week after the time of writing, so we keep fingers crossed for a continued favourable weather.

We still have a waiting list but if anyone is interested in joining the list, please phone David on 01829 752070 or email: davidrounthwaite@hotmail.com.



A Big Thank You from Macmillan Cancer Support....

"Thank you for hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning and helping people living with cancer.

We've just received your £700 payment - thank you so much.

Your kindness makes a huge difference. It could mean that someone with cancer can get **help with how they're feeling** on our Support Line, **pay their bills** during treatment or turn to a **Macmillan nurse** for vital medical, practical and emotional support.

Please rest assured that your donation has been safely received and we're very grateful."



Work begins on improvements at Ashton Hayes & Mouldsworth Village Hall



Work is now under way to create an improved Village Hall in Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth!

The Village Hall has started an exciting programme of improvements, made possible thanks to a £38,500 grant from FCC Communities Foundation. The project includes redecoration both inside and out, a refurbished kitchen, the installation of a new fire alarm panel, and secondary glazing to improve energy efficiency and comfort for hall users. The hall will remain open for use during this time with work being completed around the current user schedule where possible. The upgrades will help ensure the hall continues to provide a safe, welcoming and modern space for local residents and community groups to enjoy. The fire alarm has now been installed and internal and external redecoration has been completed with the refurbishment of the kitchen and installation of secondary glazing next, to begin over the next few months!

Speaking about the project, Heather Lutton, the Chair of the Village Hall, said:

'It's fantastic to see work getting underway. The improvements will make a real difference to everyone who uses the hall - from local clubs and events to private functions. We're incredibly grateful to FCC Communities Foundation for their support.'

FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund. Richard Smith, FCC Communities Foundation senior grant manager commented: 'It's always nice to see something we have funded start to take shape. We're delighted to be supporting such a worthwhile project and look forward to it benefitting community groups and individuals around Ashton and Mouldsworth.'

The work is expected to be ongoing throughout the rest of the year and completed early in 2026.

Follow the progress of the works for the village hall on Facebook - search for 'Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth Village Hall'.

Pavilion Lunch Club

Early in 2025, a fortnightly lunch club was launched by AHSRA. It was designed to provide opportunities for local people who may live alone, are finding it less easy to get out and about, or for other reasons are finding themselves somewhat isolated. A small initial grant was obtained which, together with the amount those coming pay for their lunch, has made it possible to continue to run.

The lunch club offers a chance for people to meet up as part of a small group for a couple of hours every two weeks for lunch, a chat and a laugh. A group of great volunteers have been working hard to make this happen and for it to be enjoyable and support those who most need some company.

It will soon have been going for a year and the numbers have grown so much that we have had to change the seating plan to fit everyone in!

We keep a waiting list as not everyone can attend every time and we like to be full.

Ideally, we would like a few extra volunteers in place to help share the tasks. If you are interested or have any questions, please talk to Jane by ringing 01829 752607 or emailing janecolville1@gmail.com.

THE GOLDEN LION

You are invited to our

NEW YEARS PARTY

31st December | 8pm



NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH

121 JANUARY 2020
FOOD SERVED 12:00PM - 5PM

JOIN US AFTER THE
CELEBRATIONS FROM
THE NIGHT BEFORE

BOOKINGS
OPEN NOW



DECEMBER AT THE GOLDEN LION

FESTIVE MENU 28TH NOVEMBER – 23RD DECEMBER. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

CHRISTMAS DAY DRINKS 12PM-2PM

BOXING DAY LUNCH 12PM-6PM

NEW YEARS EVE – JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF CELEBRATIONS TO WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR

NO TICKETS REQUIRED!

(KITCHEN CLOSSES 7PM, BAR OPEN UNTIL LATE)

NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH MENU 12PM-5PM



FESTIVE MENU SERVED 28TH NOVEMBER ONWARDS. PLEASE CALL OR POP IN TO ENQUIRE ABOUT BOOKING AND FOR FULL DETAILS.

Deposit & pre orders required for all festive bookings



K ELSBORROW C HOIR

Kelsborrow Choir have recently sung at Halton Trinity Church to help with their 150th anniversary. On 24 October we sang in St. James's Church in Christleton to help fundraising for their new alterations.

- 14 December at 3pm, we are having our Christmas concert at Tarvin Community Centre. Tickets £10 with refreshments. Children £5. Please support us.
- 18 December at 1 pm, Carol singing in Sainsburys at Cheshire Oaks.
- 20th December at 1pm, Carol singing in Tarporeley Garden Centre.
- 23rd December at 8pm we are singing in the Golden Lion!

All of our proceeds are going to the 'Joshua Tree' (based in Dalefords Lane, Sandiway). Last year we raised £1,500 for this charity. Let's hope we surpass this amount this year.

If you're interested in joining our lovely choir, please contact our Musical Director, John Evans, who can give you more information (07939 645688). Alternatively, just turn up on a Tuesday evening in the Village Hall. We start at 7.30pm. We would love to see you.

**Friday
December 5th**

Ashton Hayes Playing Field

Christmas Tree Lighting

Food, Drinks & Bar from 4:30

Free entry and mini lights trail

Cash
Please



Mingle with Santa
Tree Lighting at 6:15

Sausage Buns Tray Bakes
Mulled Wine Mince Pies
Hot Drinks Beer Wine

All funds raised go to Ashton Hayes Sports & Recreation Association

Ashton Sings
COMMUNITY CHOIR



Present their annual

Festive Concert

Get into the Christmas spirit with songs
and fun from
Ashton Sings and friends.

Saturday 13th December 2025, 7.30 pm
at Kelsall Community Centre,
Chester Road, Kelsall CW6 0SB

Tickets: Adult £7.50 Child (age 5 to 15) £3.00
(price includes a hot/cold drink and cake)

Tickets available in advance via choir members/contacts below
and will also be available to purchase on the night.

Ashton Hayes area: contact Tracey Crutchley on 07919 651140

Kingsley area: contact Peter Storey on 07814 920413

Kelsall area: contact Howard Cruse on 07767 494995



PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Our Parish Council has **5 vacancies** for
Parish Councillors.



Are you:

- passionate about Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel?
- enthusiastic about getting involved?
- someone who wants to make a difference?

The Parish Council is a busy, motivated group of volunteers wishing to make a difference in the area where they live. They meet a minimum of eleven times a year on the 2nd Monday of the month.

To stand for election on a parish council:

- **Citizenship:** You must be a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen.
- **Age:** You must be at least **18 years old** on the day of your nomination
- **Electoral Registration:** You must be registered as a local government elector for the parish where you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
- **Residency or Work:** You should have lived in the parish area or within three miles of it for the whole of the 12 months before your nomination. Alternatively, you can qualify if you have occupied land or premises in the parish as an owner or tenant during that time, or if your main place of work has been in the parish.

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

If you are interested please come along to a Parish Council meeting. We meet on the second Monday of the month (except for August). Check out our [website](#) or email the clerk at clerk@ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.

Christmas is a cumin in

A musical evening with Ashton Folk

St John the Evangelist Ashton Hayes

Saturday 6th December 7.30pm

Tickets £10.

Tickets available from the Community Shop or Yvonne Dawen (01829 751174)

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

All proceeds will be donated to church funds

Christmas at St. John's

Celebrate with us!

Sunday 7th December

10.30am All Age Toy Service

Sunday 14th December

4pm Messy Church with Christingles

Sunday 21st December

6.30pm A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve, 24th December

4pm Children's Carol Service

Christmas Day, 25th December

10am All Age Communion



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ASHTON HAYES

Focused on Christ, united in faith, serving our community.



IT'S CHRISTMAS!



Christmas has arrived at our village shop.

The shelves are full of festive treats and great gift ideas, so please pop in and have a look.

Ashton Hayes Christmas cards are available along with Noel Tatt charity cards, named and packs. We also have Chatwin's and Gill's mince pies as well as very tasty Christmas cakes.

We have plenty of Christmas essentials, including wrap, gift bags, bows, parcel tape and tissue paper and you can also post your cards and parcels.

Festive gifts and decorations are on display; feel free to browse at your leisure.

Shop open Hours

Monday 22nd - 7.30 to 5.30
Tuesday 23rd - 7.30 to 5.30
Wednesday 24th - 7.30 to 1.00
Thursday 25th - Closed
Friday 26th - 9.00 to 11.00
Saturday 27th - 8.00 to 3.00
Wednesday 31st - 7.30 to 1.00
Thursday 1st - Closed
All other days as usual

Turkey Orders

We are now taking orders for turkeys, Wally Dutton meat and deli items, fresh fruit and vegetables, plus general groceries.

Order forms available in the shop or to download from our website.

Last order date: Friday 12th December
Collection: Monday 23rd December
between 10am and 3pm.

The shop will close at 1pm on
Wednesday 24th December.

Are you an early riser?

Could you spare an hour one morning each week to help our community shop?

We need a volunteer to sort newspapers between 6 am and 7 am. It's a peaceful start to the day and a great way to support your village.

Interested? Pop in and speak to Deb or drop us an email.

Post Office Hours

From Monday 17th November the Post Office will be open: Monday to Friday - 9.15am to 12 noon and 2pm to 5.30pm,
Saturday - 9.15am to 12 noon

These will also be the normal opening hours over the Christmas period except for the following: Closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day
New Year's Eve - 9.15am to 12 noon



Ashton Hayes & Mouldsworth Community Shop

01829 759023 - amcshop@btconnect.com - www.ourvillageshop.org.uk