

Around Ashton

Community news from Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel Parish Council
Spring 2026

Parish Council Move to the Golden Lion

Early January saw the parish council holding its first meeting in the 'Parish Room' inside the Golden Lion. For anybody who has not seen it, this is the area at the back of the pub near to the road and the car park that can be partitioned off with some beautifully crafted folding oak doors. This creates a very pleasant meeting space and allows the parish council to hold its meetings in a quiet and alcohol-free room, as required by regulations. However, the real benefits of the room are its comfort and warmth (something that the old Parish Rooms lacked!) and the ability, after the meeting, to socialise in the bar area of the pub. We look forward to holding our future meetings there.

As always, any member of the public is welcome to join the meetings (leaving your beer or wine behind!) and we use the first fifteen minutes for public engagement. We can listen to questions from members of the public and try to answer these, but we are not permitted to debate anything that is not on the agenda. If, however, the issue needs to be discussed, we can put it on the agenda of the next meeting. We meet on the second Monday of every month (except August) at



*Parish Councillors with Members of the Community Benefit Society
in the new Parish Room at the Golden Lion*

7.15pm. Why not come along? You may get so interested that you want to join the Parish Council – we still have vacancies!

One further benefit of moving to the Golden Lion, following the sale of the old Parish Rooms in West End, is that we no longer have to make any financial provision for the future upkeep of the old rooms. You may remember that it was the increasing costs and lack of income that led to the decision to sell these rooms. The Parish Rooms are no longer a liability to the parish and this has enabled us to set our budget for 2026/27 at a level which will involve **no** increase in the Parish Precept. Obviously, costs all round are increasing and you may be aware that CWaC will be increasing the general precept by 4.99%, but the additional amount which Ashton Hayes parishioners pay will have a **0%** increase in April. So, that's one thing that won't be going up!



The Christmas tree in the Playing Field
looking splendid during the snow

Parish Council Update

Parish Calendar



The Parish Calendar is proving to be invaluable to both organisations advertising their events and the residents looking to find out what is on.

It got a lot of use in the lead up to Christmas and there are already some dates on there for next Christmas!

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.



How you receive 'Around Ashton'

The 'Around Ashton' Newsletter is an important part of our community communications and is distributed to all households in the parish. The content has varied over the years and the number of pages and costs of production have increased.

Currently, it typically costs £4 per household per year which is funded via the precept. We publish it in both paper and electronic forms and the intent, like with many other publications, is to go digital as far as practical, saving paper and printing costs as well as volunteers' effort distributing it.

If you currently receive a paper copy, please consider signing up for the electronic version if you are able to do so, by going to:

<https://ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk/about-around-ashton/subscribe-to-around-ashton/>

It only takes a couple of minutes to sign up and it will mean the parish will save money thus reducing the charge on the precept.

An additional benefit of signing up for electronic copies is that you will receive 'Around Ashton' up to two weeks earlier by avoiding the wait for it to be printed and distributed by volunteers.

Experience gained by speaking with people whilst delivering the paper copies, has shown in test areas, an 83% switch from paper copies to digital.

Your Parish Council Needs you!

WE NEED YOU!



We currently have 3 vacancies on the parish council and are looking for local residents who wish to get involved and make a real difference to their community.

Becoming a parish councillor offers a unique opportunity to actively shape and improve your local community. It allows you to represent the needs and concerns of residents, influence decisions that affect the area, and contribute to making Ashton Hayes a better place to live. It's a chance to make a real difference by getting involved in local governance and community development. Please contact clerk@ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk if you would like further information.

Parish Council Update

Flooding Update

It has been a very wet autumn and winter but thankfully there have been no flooding incidents to date. This is probably due to several factors:

- No re-occurrence of intense storms with continuous heavy rainfall over several hours.
- Some of the drainage problems on the Kelsall bypass have been fixed and have significantly reduced water flow into our catchment area. However, further work is needed and the issue is being chased with CWaC. Unfortunately, CWaC have not agreed to action several mitigating proposals put forward by the parish council.
- Repairs have been made to damaged drains and pipework at the top of Gongar Lane, close to the junctions of Church Road and Peel Crescent.
- The Environment Agency has removed obstructions from the stream at the lower end of Shay Lane, above the entrance to the culvert, thus improving water flow.
- Some changes to farming practices on some of the fields may have helped ease peak flows e.g. ditch improvements.
- Following a parish council meeting on site with CWaC, CWaC agreed to improve cleaning of the road gully drains. Some have been done but many are still blocked.
- CWaC have established and published a gully cleaning schedule. The parish council are actively monitoring this.

Although progress is being made, the parish council believe it is not sufficient to substantially reduce the potential flood risk. In particular, the parish council is actively chasing CWaC re. their provision of a temporary flood alleviation pump at the lower junction of Peel Crescent and the Meadows to pump flood waters around the back of the houses in to the brook below the Scout hut. CWaC have applied for funding to the Environment Agency for this scheme and we await the outcome.

Initial work has also taken place to establish the basis for a flood warning group and further work on this is required before it can be established.

Speed Limit Changes

The planned speed limit change between the recreation field on Ashton Lane and Ashton House Nursery on Church Road was finally completed during the last week of January.

This section of the village is now a 20mph zone and updated speed signage has been installed.

Additionally, as reported in the last edition, a 20mph zone is also being established outside the school during 'drop off' and 'pick up' times. CWaC are currently working on this element.

Please ensure you adhere to the new speed limits within the village for these limits are essential for protecting all road users and reducing the risk of accidents.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our roads safe.

Community Clean Up

The next community clean up event will be taking place on Saturday 11th April 2026. As usual everyone taking part will be rewarded with free drinks and cake afterwards. Meet at the Pavilion at 10:30am.

If you have taken part before you will receive an email with details. If you would like to take part for the first time or if you would like to be on the clean-up mailing list just drop us a line at communitycleanup@ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk

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
Summer	Monday 1st June 2026	Friday 8th May
Autumn	Monday 31st August 2026	Friday 7th August
Winter	Monday 30th November 2026	Friday 6th November

Dog Fouling

Several areas of our parish have seen a noticeable increase in dog fouling particularly along routes used regularly by families and children. This issue has been raised repeatedly, yet still remains a frustration for residents, as it continues to impact not only the appearance of our community but also the safety of those who use these shared spaces.

Most dog owners act responsibly but there continues to be a minority out there who don't and the consequences are felt by the whole community.

The message is simple:

If your dog fouls night or day; on the lead, off the lead or on an extended lead; locate it, bag it and dispose of it in public bins on your walking route or take it home. Should you have difficulty bending in order to do this, due to mobility issues, please let one of the parish councillors know, so that assistance can be arranged. You can email us at clerk@ashtonhayesparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone us on 07784 486 767.

We ask all dog owners to help keep our community clean by:

- Carrying bags on all dog walks
- Never leave dog waste behind
- Use the bins provided
- Encourage others to do the right thing

With a little more care from all dog owners, we can ensure our shared spaces remain safe, pleasant and enjoyable for the whole community.

Message from CWAC regarding Road Works

"We are currently receiving a high volume of enquiries regarding roadworks across the borough. To help you access the most up-to-date information as quickly as possible, I wanted to remind you of the self-service tools available on the Council's website.

Our Roadworks page provides live, interactive updates on all planned and emergency works, including works by the Council, utilities, and third-party contractors. This is the same system used by our highways teams and offers the most accurate and current information.

You can access it

here: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/highways/live-roadworks>

Using this service, you can:

- View all works on a map, including start/end dates and responsible organisation
- Check for diversion routes and traffic management
- Filter by location, date, or type of work
- Share direct links with others if you need to

If you require further clarification on specific works after checking the webpage, our team will of course continue to support you.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance in helping us manage enquiries effectively."

Ashton Hayes Sports & Recreation Association

Thank you to everyone who supported the tree lighting social fundraiser for the playing field. There was a good turnout despite the delay of a few days to a dry, calm and mild midweek evening. Santa arrived ringing his bell to chat with children (and some dogs) and there was carol singing by Ashton Sings and St John's choirs. It was lovely to see the children venturing into the dark with their torches, answer sheets and pencils to follow the mini lights trail. The tree looked fabulous all the way through the Christmas period, especially in the snow.

A huge thankyou to the volunteers who made it happen - ran the tombola, served the very popular sausage buns and cakes, the mulled wine and elf punch, ran the bar, to MC James for playing the tunes and to Santa for finding the time to stop by. Thanks also to the outdoors team who collected and put up the tree and converted the beacon into 'shorty the brazier' and kept it stoked all evening, the lifters and shifters. It's a big team effort. The tree was very kindly donated to help to raise funds for AHSRA.

We urgently need anyone who can spare a few hours per month to volunteer

If you can volunteer for any of these tasks, or anything else, please contact ashtonhsra@gmail.com

- Hosting our new 'welcoming spaces' sessions at the pavilion including a chat over a hot drink and cake
- Secretary duties including taking minutes and record keeping, dealing with inbound email etc
- Admin such as arranging health & safety inspections, filing accounts, updating companies house etc
- Assisting the Treasurer with invoicing etc
- Helping with pavilion rental activities such as taking bookings, opening and dosing up
- Being on a rota for daily safety inspections
- Arranging contractors for maintenance works
- Being part of the team running fundraising events

You could volunteer as a Trustee of the charity, helping to ensure that all facilities at the playing field are funded, improved and maintained for the future. Information is available on the AHSRA web pages or contact ashtonhsra@gmail.com to find out more.

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

How to Donate

Online on the AHSRA JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/ashtonhayes-sra>

Donation box on the counter in the Community Shop



Pavilion Hire

The Pavilion is available for hire at a reasonable rate, raising vital funds to maintain the playground and playing field facilities - and not just for parties and meetings. Feedback from one resident shows how the space can be creatively used for gatherings of friends or family:

'Please may I book the Pavilion again for a family get together. Last time, I found the space excellent as it gave the children the opportunity to play outside on the field and playground, but could also come indoors for drinks and snacks, use of toilet, and some of the smaller ones and babies were warm and cosy inside. Being able to make hot drinks for the adults was most welcome. I brought a selection of games, puzzles, play dough, and we played 'pass the parcel'. I've been telling lots of people about it, and everyone said what a good idea it was. Also, we enjoyed seeing the Christmas tree lit up just before we left.'

VILLAGE FUN DAY WITH FUN DOG SHOW SATURDAY JULY 11TH

There will be more details nearer the time, including timings and dog show categories, but already confirmed are craft stalls and vintage vehicles. To keep children occupied there will be slip and slide water fun (weather dependent), games and fun races. Refreshments available from the café, BBQ, bar and ice creams. There will be live music, a raffle and more. As always you may bring gazebos, chairs, picnic rugs etc. Being a community event, dog friendly guidelines will be in place, with well-behaved dogs on a lead welcome within the event area of the field.

SAVE THE DATE!

Considering that we're fast approaching Spring, it's hard to imagine that it'll ever arrive - what weather we're having!! Despite the weather, our New Year's Lunch was held at The Golden Lion in early January and it was lovely to be welcomed into our own community pub to enjoy a delicious meal and receive such good service. Thanks to Michael and his team on the day. In February, we were back in St John's, where we welcomed musician Paul Rooney, who entertained us with some fantastic singing - with guitar accompaniment. There was plenty of opportunity to sing along and he also provided some humorous insights about how his career started. Our March Meeting should be very interesting, when Hen Johnson is visiting us and telling us about 'The WI in Wartime.' Ashton Hayes WI has its own tales to tell on the subject, so it will be interesting to swap stories. For the artists amongst you, why not visit us in April, when Susan Cowley will be giving us a watercolour demonstration. Over the years, we've had some very talented artists amongst our membership, but there's room for some more!

Apart from our monthly Meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in St John's Church (unless otherwise stated on our notice board outside the Community Shop and Post Office), we have the opportunity to attend other events that are organised by the Cheshire Federation of WIs. Coming up over the next couple of months are the following. In March, there is the CFWI Annual Council Meeting, which will be held at Nunsmere Hall, Tarporley. The Guest Speakers will be The Lord Mayor of Chester and Will Kirk, from the BBC's 'The Repair Shop.' Also in March, there are talks to be held at WI House in Whitefriars, Chester, regarding 'Green Dot Day 2026.' In April you could study for your Food Hygiene Level 2 Certificate at WI House and also in April learn about 'Active Ageing in Body and Mind' - also at WI House. Finally, a visit to the Hat Works Museum with Afternoon Tea at Stockport Plaza has been arranged for April. All details and ticket booking facilities for all of these events are available from our WI Secretary.

We still encourage members to attend locally run courses, which will either teach them new skills, or improve upon skills that they already have. Our Darts, Bowls and Quiz Teams are preparing themselves for the 2026 season and aim to continue to achieve great results, as in past years. Some members also play indoor bowls at Kelsall Community Centre.

The WI gives women the opportunity to make new friends and belong to a national organisation which cares about people, both local and national issues and the world in general. They campaign on a national level and get results, whilst locally, we still enjoy a social life in our own communities.



*Lunch at the
Golden Lion*



Ashton Hayes Allotment Association

This report has to be submitted before Candlemas (2 February) but considering the late January weather, Candlemas seems unlikely to be 'fair and bright', in which case 'winter may not have another flight' - fingers crossed!

It is a quiet damp winter on the allotments. As per our report at the end of last year, those brassicas that survived the late summer drought fell foul of pigeon attacks. There are a few leeks still to harvest and the ever-present Jerusalem artichokes.

Garlic and Autumn sown broad beans look satisfactory and globe artichokes have so far survived the frosts. Encouragingly, the autumn legacy of dry ground has meant more rainfall than usual has been soaked up and digging is fairly advanced. Apple tree and soft fruit pruning is underway.

The weather was kind for our post Michaelmas clean-up, so the fences, compost bins and drain are all in good order.

The AGM was held in the Golden Lion on 10 February.

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.

Good growing



Ashton Sings first formed in 2012 and as we enter a new year it is difficult to think we have been together for 14 years. From a few Ashton Hayes folk tentatively gathering the Village Hall to the 60+ members we have at present, we have developed into a more confident choir whose members enjoy meeting to sing on a Monday evening in the Village Hall.

We celebrated Christmas by holding a concert in Kelsall Community Centre to which we welcomed over 100 family and friends in the audience and we held an impromptu sing-along of carols in the Golden Lion Pub one evening much to the delight of a group of carers who were holding their own Christmas party and joined in with gusto.

Another outing to The Golden Lion was a recent Saturday evening social event. Lovely food was served by Michael and his staff, and once again we entertained other locals present with our singing as well as enjoying some individual turns by members.

Looking ahead, we have planned a concert at Norley School singing with their small choir and are looking already at new music for our Summer Concert in Kingsley Community Centre in July.

Village Fun Day & Fun Dog Show

Ashton Hayes

Saturday July 11th



Slip & Slide

Water Fun & Games

Bar

Raffle

Fun Races

Craft Stalls

Live Music

Playing Field
from 12

Vintage Vehicles

BBQ & Refreshments



All funds raised go to:

AHSRA - Ashton Hayes Sports & Recreation Association

ashtonhayespc.co.uk/community-info/ahsra-ashton-hayes-sports-and-recreation-association/

THE
GOLDEN
LION

Pie
Monday

Burger
Bonanza

Chef's
Specials

All day
Monday

All day
Thursday

Friday &
Saturday

Book now for Mother's Day
Sunday 15th March

All Six Nations Rugby shown live
Super Saturday 14th March

Quiz Night Wednesday 25th March
£1 per person Entry

Proceeds to Northwest Air Ambulance

RUNNERS UP IN
THE CAMRA PUB SAVING AWARDS 2025

01829 849859 11am to 11pm

thegoldenlion.ashtonhayes@outlook.com

Ashton Hayes Theatre Club's Next Production

18 - 21 March

'Nightwatch' by Lucille Fletcher is a classic psychological thriller, first presented on stage in 1972 before moving to the big screen with Elizabeth Taylor in the lead role. Elaine is a fragile New York City housewife battling insomnia. One evening, whilst awake and unsettled, she believes she has seen a body in the creepy apartment across the street. Her husband, John, summons the police. They, of course, do not find a body. Confused and frightened, Elaine goes about her day only to be confronted by strange occurrences that lead her to remember traumatic events from her past. Was there ever really a body? And why does her husband think she should take a rest in Switzerland?

'Nightwatch' is an underrated gem which offers a surprisingly fresh take on the 'nobody believes the hysterical woman' genre. This production, set in 1950s and in true Film Noir style, has all the characters you would expect: tough-guy cops, loyal best friend, eccentric neighbour and a husband who may, or may not, be trustworthy?

Don't miss this tense thriller that will guarantee to have you on the edge of your seat.

Book at www.ahtc.org.uk



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ASHTON HAYES



Celebrate with us this Easter!

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Good Friday, 3rd April	10am	Walk of Witness (St. Cuthbert's to St. John's)
	2pm	'An Hour at the Cross'
Easter Sunday, 5th April	9am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	All Age Service



St. John's Craft Evening **7.30pm, Saturday 14th March**



*Make your own
crepe paper
flowers for
Mother's Day!*

*Tickets £10, including drinks and light refreshments.
Please email contact@ashtonhayes.church to book your place!*

66 99

ASHTON HAYES
theatre club

2026

NIGHT WATCH

BY
LUCILLE FLETCHER

with kind permission of Dramatists Play Service inc

March
Wed 18th - Sat 21st
Tarvin Community Centre

7.45 pm

BOOK AT
WWW.AHTC.ORG.UK

ADULTS £12 STUDENTS £9