



ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY



Photo competition launched – see page 8

April 2024

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WB Lettings	Ad 11
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Take Me Home James	Ad 2
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Our advertisers pay for their advertising space so that this magazine can be delivered to you free of charge. Please do use them should you need any of their services. Furthermore, if you contact them, please make sure they know you have sourced them through this magazine.

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The Parish Magazine is the property of the Ashford Hill with Headley PCC (“the PCC”). The PCC and the Parish Magazine team accepts no responsibility for goods and services advertised within the Magazine or for any opinions expressed in articles or letters appearing within it.

Viewing this magazine digitally: Recently published issues of the magazine can be found at: <https://www.clerewoodlands.org.uk/magazine>

Advertising in this parish magazine: If you want to advertise in this magazine, please contact Patrick Taylor patrick@ourparishmag.com

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Ashford Hill with Headley Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The annual meeting of Ashford Hill with Headley church council will take place on 22nd April at 7.30pm (refreshments from 7pm) in St Peter's Church, Headley. All are welcome to attend to find out what has been happening in our churches over the past year, and our plans for 2024.

Church Services & Rota – April 2024



Services in our churches this month will be as follows:

Date	07-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr
Time	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
Service type	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
Where	St Peter's, Headley	St Peter's, Headley	St Paul's, Ashford Hill	St Paul's, Ashford Hill
Chalice	Penny Stewart	N/A	N/A	Patrick Taylor
Sidesperson	Paddy Dring	Penny Stewart	Paddy Dring	Lorraine Cusworth
Reader	Paddy Dring	Ann Hoddinott	Heather Taylor	Heather Taylor
Intercessor	N/A	N/A	N/A	Patrick Taylor
Altar Colour	White	White	White	White
Service Leader	Neil Britton	Revd. Pete Williams	Patrick Taylor	Neil Britten
Readings	John 20: 19-21	Luke 24: 36-48	John 10: 11-18	John 15: 1-8

This month, services will be held at St Mary's, Kingsclere as follows:

Date	Time	Type of service
07-Apr	10:30am	Holy Communion
14-Apr	10:30am	Morning Worship
21-Apr	10:30am	Morning Worship
28-Apr	10:30am	Morning Worship
Every Thursday at 10:30am, there is a service, either Holy Communion or Morning Worship, held in St Mary's, Kingsclere		

Other Church Activities

Please continue to look out for notices via the Church email list run by Emma Rivers. If you are not signed up to our mailing list, contact 07422 687125 or email administrator@stpaulsashfordhill.co.uk. Our online calendar is also updated regularly so please look there for the most up to date information.

A letter from our Vicar, Revd. Pete Williams



Hello,

What would you say if I offered you £86,400 a day, every day? There are two conditions attached:

- First, you must spend every penny of it each day. You can't save any until the next day; it must all be used
- Second, the offer can finish at any time. You can't depend on receiving £86,400 tomorrow; it may not be there

How will you ensure that you spend the whole amount by the end of each day? It will require a deliberate plan of action. And how are you going to tackle the possibility that there might be no money coming tomorrow?

Did you know there are 86,400 seconds in a day? Every day, we are gifted 86,400 seconds – no more, no less. We must use every second as it occurs; we can't save an hour or two for tomorrow. One thing that's certain is that one day, time will run out for us. So, how we spend this amount of time, day by day is important.

We're advised to spend 28,800 seconds – eight hours – asleep, and this time is vital because it enables our mind and body to recharge. We may have a job which takes a chunk of time, family commitments, we have to eat, wash, and have fun.

We appreciate that £86,400 is a lot of money; it is very valuable. Yet we don't tend to think of time as a valuable commodity, so we can end up letting it slip away, like money through our fingers. We waste time, we don't plan how to use it. We take time for granted, especially when we're young. "There's always tomorrow".

At a recent memorial service, a grieving husband said of the loss of his beloved wife, "If something is important, has value, and is worth doing – do it NOW. Don't delay, don't say I'll do it tomorrow or next year."

In the bible, there's a book called Ecclesiastes. As we think of the time we might spend on our hopes & dreams, the writer has some sage words for us:

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build".

What things in your world need to be birthed? What has died, or needs to be killed, to allow time to plant something else? What needs healing, so new life can begin to shoot forth?

The writer concludes, "I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live."

So don't procrastinate. Get started on that project. Be happy. Why not use 3,600 of your seconds today, and start to make a plan?

Bless you,

Pete

What happens when we die?

On 8th February, many of us attended the funeral of David MacDonald Milner, a long-term resident of Ashford Hill, and subsequently Kingsclere. At this funeral, Revd. Patrick Mansel-Lewis, a close family friend of David's family gave an homily which largely focused on the subject of what happens to us – but more particularly to David – when we die. Here is Patrick's answer:

“We have gathered here today to remember David, to pay our last respects to his memory, to bid our final farewell and to support each other at this sad time. We are also going to commit his body to the ground and to entrust his soul to God in the words of the commendation later in this service.

The final item in this occasion will be the playing of The Last Post and the Reveille at the graveside, symbolising in a funeral service the death of a Serviceman in the music of The Last Post, and awakening to eternal life in the Reveille.

On what basis do I have the confidence to declare this to you today?

I start with the creation accounts in Genesis, that God formed the human being from the dust of the ground and breathed in to them the breath of life so that they became living beings, made in the image and the likeness of their creator, capable of spiritual relations with God, but turning out to be flawed and in need of restoration.

That restoration came with the entry in to this world of God's son, born of Mary as the baby Jesus and growing in to one who became our representative

man, in that what he accomplished, endured and achieved he did on our behalf.

Having lived a life of exemplary authority in which he demonstrated the power of goodness over evil and suffering in his teaching and his healing ministry, he embraced death and defeated it in his resurrection two days later, and later still ascended to God his Father in Heaven. As he endured his final hour on the cross, one of the two criminals executed with him asked him; “Jesus, remember me when you come in to your kingdom”. Jesus replied; “I tell you, this day you will be with me in paradise”.

That short exchange tells us that Jesus had come to live with us on earth so that he could take us to live with him in Heaven. Our gospel reading contains a parallel reassurance, containing part of the discourse by Jesus to his Apostles after the Last Supper. He tells them that he is going to his Father – he does not say that he is going to die – and in doing so he would assume his place in his Father's house (in Heaven). He tells his Apostles that where he is going, they too will go, and that there will be room for all who want to share their lives with him.

The next day he died on the cross. For his followers, the impossible had happened, and they all thought that this was the end. But two days later he rose from the dead and proved to his Mother, his Apostles and his friends that he had been restored to life in both a recovery and an advancement. A recovery, because his body seemed to work just as it had done before he was killed.



An advancement, because although his earthly body was restored, it obviously now had a heavenly dimension to it as well. For a while he seemed to be oscillating between Heaven and earth, sometimes with his Apostles on earth, then inexplicably disappearing and presumably going, as he said he would do, to his Father, but not yet in a fully established way; until his final journey, which was to leave the earth and ascend to Heaven and join his Father for good.

For people without faith, death is the end of everything. Even for people who have a hazy idea of what he is like, many people do not believe that they are good enough for God and will never be able to come close to him. That is not the New Testament view. The death that Jesus died, he died for us. In his resurrection he rose for each one of us.

In his ascension to Heaven he went back to his Father on behalf of each one of us so that, as he had told his Disciples after the last supper he was going to his Father to prepare a place for them, and when he came again he would take each one to his room in his Father's house where there is room for all.

That is my confidence for David, who was himself a believer and who, according to the pattern of Jesus, will be clothed with a heavenly body as he takes his place in his Father's house. I encourage you to believe that for him, and for yourselves.”



Photography Competition launched



Charlotte Jury, who lives in Goose Hill, has suggested to me that we run a Photography competition in the magazine. She and her partner, Matt, have agreed to run it for us. This competition will take over from the Mistakes Competition, which has now ended. So, here are the rules of the competition and how to enter:

1. The competition will start with the April 2024 issue. The first entries must be sent to Charlotte at: parishpics@outlook.com by the 3rd May. The successful photo will be included in the June issue.

2. The competition will then run for each subsequent issue. Entries must reach Charlotte by the 3rd of the following month, i.e. for the month of May, photos must reach Charlotte by 3rd June with the result being announced and published in the next issue.

3. All photos must be submitted in a commonly used digital format. The higher the resolution the better.

4. Each person entering the competition can only submit one photo per month. Each entrant must give his/her contact details to Charlotte.

5. Charlotte, with the help of Matt, will decide on the winner by the 10th of each month so as to meet the deadline for putting the photo in the subsequent issue.

6. All photos must have a relevance to the parish of Ashford Hill and Headley. For example, photos of the Eiffel Tower will not be selected to win. Preference will be given to current photos and ones that are "of the season". So, don't submit your skiing photos in June!

7. Any submitted photo which includes photographs of people must identify who those people are so that Charlotte can check that they are happy for the photo to be included. If permission is not given, that photo will not be published.

8. Any photo to be published must meet with the approval of the publisher on grounds of decency and good taste. In the event of any disagreement, the publisher's decision is final.

9. The winner of each month will receive a £10 voucher to the Headley Community Shop. At the end of each year, the last issue will contain the "picture of the year" chosen by Charlotte (and Matt). This will be taken from the winning photos from that year's issues. The winner will receive a £50 voucher for the Headley Community Shop, again funded by the magazine.

Patrick Taylor, Publisher



MOVE BETTER, LIVE BETTER

3 EXERCISES TO DO EVERY DAY TO FEEL 10 YEARS YOUNGER

Life as we age has its quirks—getting off the floor, wrangling with sock logistics, and conquering the grocery mission can feel like a real-life workout. But here's the secret sauce: doing these three daily exercises isn't just about building muscle, it's your ticket to Better balance, newfound flexibility, and improved overall well-being.

1. SQUATS

Squats are an essential exercise to improve the strength in your legs and core and maintain flexibility in your hips, knees and ankles. How to perform a squat:

- Start with your Feet around shoulder-width apart
- Lower your body by bending at the knees and pushing your hips back, imagine sitting onto an invisible chair
- Keep your chest up and proud and back straight
- Lower your body to a position you feel comfortable, ideally your thighs should be parallel to the ground
- Stand back up and repeat as many times as you feel comfortable, a good guide is between 10 - 15 reps



2. BRIDGES

Bridges are a vital exercise to help strengthen your hips, Hamstrings and Bum muscles. How to perform a bridge:

- Lie on our back with your feet hip width apart and Heels towards your bum
- Push through your heels to lift your hips up and squeeze your bum cheeks together.
- Return to the start position and complete as many times as you feel comfortable. Aim for 10 - 20 reps

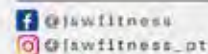


3. PLANK

A Plank is a fundamental exercise to help improve your core strength and upper-body strength.

Here is how to perform a Plank:

- Lie on your front with your elbows under your shoulders
- Lift your hips off the floor until you create a straight line from your shoulders to your bum
- Hold this position holding your core as tight as possible for as long as you can. Aiming for 20 - 45 seconds



E: James@jswfitness.com
www.jswfitness.com

Dates for your diary

Baughurst Repair Café

Got a dress with a broken zip but you don't have a sewing machine? Need to get your child's bike chain changed so you can go cycling together again? Blunt secateurs need sharpened so you can work on your garden? Do get them down to the Baughurst Repair Cafe and get them sorted.

The Baughurst Repair Cafe (BRC) is a community action group formed in August 2023 to reduce unnecessary waste by repairing household items so they can be reused again.

The BRC is run entirely by volunteers (2 of our lovely volunteers come from Ashford Hill) and our service is available to residents in Baughurst and all surrounding towns and villages.

The Repair Cafe events are held at Heath End Village Hall (RG26 5LU) every 3rd Sunday of the month from 10am till 1pm.

Items that can be taken for repair range from electrical, woodwork, IT equipment, textile, costume jewellery, bicycles and general repairs. We also provide tool sharpening and Mobile Phone advice / Troubleshooting.

Check out our website: www.baughurstrc.uk or our Facebook page.

Open Studios is coming again to the Headley Community Shop

4th-19th May

Artists exhibiting this year will include: Jane Baikie, Joan Crawford, Gill Banks, Charlotte Glynn & Paula White

Contact: Jane Baikie - 07900 492596 / 01635 268525 - jane.baikie69@gmail.com



Basingstoke Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team Presentation

There will be a presentation by Basingstoke Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team & an opportunity to meet PC Simon Denton who will be the new named Officer for our area.

Ashford Hill Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 13th May 2024

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

You are warmly invited to have fun and party at the

Headley & Ashford Hill Village Picnic

On Saturday 29th June 13:00 – 16:30

At the Headley Village Common

What's on in APRIL & beyond

If you are arranging any event which you would like mentioned in this magazine, please do let me know. Send details to patrick@ourparishmag.com Please take note of the following:

The Community Café – Headley Community Shop is open every Tuesday from 2:30 - 4:30 pm.

The Village Lunch – The next lunch will be on Friday 12th April – 12.15 - 1.45 pm, in the Community Room at Headley Village Shop. Homemade soup and a filled roll £5.00. All are welcome.

Ashford Hill Garden Club – Wednesday 10th April – Ashford Hill Village Hall, starting at 7:45pm. Doors open at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome with an entry charge of £5.

Parish Council meeting – The next meeting will be on Monday 8th April at Headley Village Hall, starting at 7:30pm. If you have any issues or questions you want to put to our Councillors, this is your chance to do so. They work for our good. Attend the meeting and show your support. <https://ashfordhillwithheadleyipc.org/> The **Annual Parish Meeting** of the Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council will be held at the Headley Village Hall on Monday 8th April 2024 starting at 7:30pm. Reports from local clubs & organisations are welcomed to be presented at this meeting either in person or sent to the Clerk at: ashfordhillheadleyipc.co.uk

What's on at Shipinnarts – The Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill RG19 8BD

We have **no events** in April as Easter is a busy time for everyone.

Our next main event is "Cabaret and Cocktails" with Kitty Mazinsky, a talented vintage singer – on Saturday 18th May 2024 7pm.



Kingsclere Players latest production, Stepping Out.

The play is about eight people from very different backgrounds and different motivations who attend the same weekly tap-dancing class. At first, they show little co-ordination but later develop a level of skill. The dance routines are a background for the focus of the play, the relationships. Stepping Out will be on at The Fieldgate Centre on Friday April 26th (7:30pm), on Saturday April 27th (2.30pm and 7.30pm) and Sunday April 28th (2.30pm). The show has some mature content and is suitable for children over 12 years old. Tickets are £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for children. Tickets can be purchased from the Fieldgate Centre www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk or www.kingsclereplayersgroup.com



Next Sustainability Event: Sunday 14th April with a food THEME – Fieldgate Centre, 10am - 12:30PM.

For more info go to: <https://greenerkingsclere.co.uk/>



Kingsclere Community Library will be running their **Quiz Night on Saturday 11th May 2024 at the Fieldgate Centre**. Tickets £7.00 a head to include snacks will be available soon. Teams of up to a maximum 8 people. There will also be a raffle with some great prizes – don't miss out, put the date in your diary now!

For more info go to: www.kingsclerecommunitylibrary.co.uk/

PC 23888 Simon DENTON, the named Police officer for our area, will be in attendance at the Headley community café on Tuesday May 7th, 2024, between 14:30hrs and 16:30 hrs. This is an opportunity for you to meet him and share any concerns that you may have.

The Newbury Spring Festival runs: 11 - 25 May 2024: Two weeks of world-class music in Newbury and the surrounding villages. Learn more as to what's on, and book your seats at: www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk

Ambling Around Greenham Common and Bishops Green

This is a local circular walk taking in Greenham Common and Bishops Green. By the time you read this hopefully the ground will have dried out to some extent, but more than half of the walk is on lanes or the gravel paths of Greenham Common. Remember that if you find an issue with any of our local footpaths e.g. encroaching hedgerows, fallen trees or thick vegetation, you can report this to the Hampshire County Council website, click on "Land, planning and environment", then on "Rights of way", then on "Report a Rights of Way problem".

Distance of walk: starting in the centre of Headley, a walk of 5 miles.

Estimated time: approx. 2 hours, depending whether you stop for coffee or lunch.

Route: The walk starts by going down Thornford Road to the ford then up onto Greenham Common. It takes you through the Greenham Business Park and down to Bishops Green before returning to Headley through the fields and woods north of Headley Stud. There is an option of a coffee or lunch break on the route. A small diversion while on the Common takes you to the Greenham Control Tower which has a café and exhibition (open Wednesdays to Sundays), or staying on the walk you will go by the Honesty café at The Base on the Business Park (open each day).

Start location: Centre of Headley.

Parking: park in the layby on the Ashford Hill Rd opposite the entrance to The Cedars (What3Words soft.rent.yacht and OS Explorer map ref SU 516627).

Dogs: The walk goes along some roads so dogs will need to be on leads for some of the time.

Summary: It is a fairly easy route to follow, mainly flat with little in the way of hills. There are a few swing gates but no stiles. It is a varied walk with woods, fields and some quiet lane walking, plus a section on the gravel paths of Greenham Common.

- Starting at the layby on Ashford Hill Rd 100 yards from the junction with the A339, walk towards Ashford Hill for about 100 yards until you reach Thornford Road. Turn left onto Thornford Road (1 on map) and walk downhill to the ford over the Enborne.

- Take the footbridge over the river and walk uphill until you reach the road also (confusingly) called Thornford Road. Turn left and then after 20 yards turn right onto Old Thornford Road (2 on map).

- After 40 yards walking uphill there is a drive to a house on your left. Cross the drive diagonally to a swing gate taking you onto the Common. Follow a rough path up, down and up again until you reach a gravel path (3 on map). Turn left and follow that straight path.

- You are now on Greenham Common which was a RAF and USAF air base from 1943 to 1993. It's a very interesting area to explore, including the Cruise Missile silos still to be found on the south west edge of the Common. These held nuclear missiles. The missiles were removed by 1991 as a result of a Nuclear Forces Treaty signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

- Walk about half a mile along this straight path until you reach the fenced edge of the Business Park. On the left of the path there is a large wooden gate with a swing gate you pass through. The next section is not the most attractive part of the walk.

Follow the path along the edge of the Business Park, left and down some steps. You walk alongside piles of gravel and soil dumped during construction work on the Park but the path is kept clear and safe. Coming to wire gates with access to the left you enter the Business Park (4 on map).

- Follow the road left for about 200 yards to a T junction beside The Chapel (an original building from the USAF occupation of the base). Turn right then next left and walk for about 200 yards. Arriving at another T junction you will see The Base café to your right. You may deserve a drink at this point. If you are not tempted turn left and drop down to the A339 (5 on map). The Base is also a visual arts venue and there is currently a Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition which is well worth a visit. This runs up until and including 14 April.

- Cross the A339 and take the road into Bishops Green. Walk through the village until you reach Bishops Green Farm on your left. (6 on map). Going through the large metal farm gate follow the footpath sign along the edge of fields down to a lane (7 on map). Turn right along the lane, and straight on when you come to a junction. After another 200 yards you will see a footpath marker on your left through a swing gate (8 on map). Take this path downhill to the edge of woods. The path turns right to a bridge over the stream. Cross the bridge and follow the path uphill, over and then alongside a horse gallop, through the woods. After another gate there is a short stretch before you reach the A339. Cross this (carefully) and return to the start along Ashford Hill Road.

Enjoy your walk.

ahahrightsofway@gmail.com



Jobs in the Garden for April



Now is the time to spread your compost heap if you have not already started. Hopefully, the ground will have dried out a little after an extremely wet winter. My lawn is full of moss and will need some iron sulphate in with the spring feed to discourage regrowth of moss, followed by a good scarification when the moss has turned black in colour. Do not compost the rubbish unless you have used a feed only lawn dressing. April is the time to really get going in the greenhouse with seeds for both the flower and vegetable garden. However, leave the more tender plants until towards the end of this month, e.g. squashes and courgettes, sweetcorn, and beans in general. Most other varieties can now be started in readiness for the coming spring/summer season. Broad beans sown earlier in the year in modules should now be planted out into the vegetable garden after hardening off and a later set of broad beans could be started directly into the soil outside, but look out for slugs and snails. Here are a few jobs for the month.

Lawns

- Mow the lawn on a high setting (No 4 or 5)
- Scarify if not done already after the first cutting and apply Weed & Feed at the advised rate on the pack. Burn the scarification waste to destroy any surviving moss. Do not put on the compost heap it may still contain weed-killer

Shrubs, Roses and Climbers

- If the roses have not been pruned yet, there is still time. Try to prune back to an outward facing bud about 12-15 ins up the stem. Cut out all dead and decaying material

- Cut back buddleias if not yet done. Cut down to about 2-3 feet to a new outward facing shoot

- Shape and thin the winter flowering shrubs after flowering has ceased (Lonicera and viburnams)

- Give all the shrubs and roses a good feed at about 2ozs per sq. yd/m. Fish, Bone and Blood works well and is relatively cheap. But all the rose feeds are suitable

- Continue spreading the compost heap as a mulch around the shrubs etc. once the feed has been applied

Flower borders

- This is the last chance to divide the perennials
- Finish planting any new plants
- Continue to apply mulch at 2-3 ins thick
- Give all the plants a feed with your favourite fertilizer
- Complete the winter tidy up

Tubs and Containers

- This is the last chance to sow the hardy annuals
- Prick out and grow on any annuals which have already germinated. Use a good quality compost
- Towards the middle of the month purchase any annuals needed for tubs, baskets or containers

Vegetable Garden

- Plant out onion sets and shallots
- After preparing the soil, sow the spring onions, carrots, parsnips and all your favourite vegetables

- Plants out broad bean plants grown under cover and sow the later crop of broad beans

- Plant out your early potatoes from the beginning of the month and the main crops towards the end of the month

- Remember to protect any brassicas you plant out else the pigeons will have a good feed and you will be left with stalks

- Also remember that all plants need feeding except root vegetables which should be set on ground given plenty of feed last season. Root crops will divide into forks if fertiliser is applied to the area

In the Greenhouse

- Pot up the plugs plants you have purchased
- Spray fuchsias with tepid water to encourage new growth. Also pinch out the tips of the plants to produce bushy plants
- Apply tomato feed to all the over wintered greenhouse plants every two weeks at the suggested rate. The compost fertilizer runs out after about six weeks

- Make up tubs, containers and baskets in readiness for planting out towards the end of May
- Sow the cucumbers, squashes, peppers and the last of the tomatoes as time is beginning to run out

We had one of the best presentations ever in February from the retired head of department from Sparsholt College, Ray Broughton. His advice was based on experience, practice and results rather than information gathered from a textbook. Two in particular stuck in my mind are -

1 – make pruning-cuts as small as possible to help prevent fungal spore access i.e. cut at 90 deg rather than 45 deg as recommended in many popular gardening books and

2 – tip prune any dark green reversion shoots, which are growing on bi-coloured shrubs, three months prior to complete removal of the offending branches close to the trunk of the shrub. The tipping checks and weakens the growth of the offending shoots and prevents water-shoots developing where the final cut has been made. The presentation was on pruning in general but included maintenance of cutting tools and feeding shrubs/hedges after pruning. His recommendation for cleaning cutters was – use Heinz Tomato Ketchup rather than too much abrasion with a sharpening stone. Leaving the cutting edges in the ketchup overnight dissolves the congealed plant-sap and returns the tool to its original shiny state. Ketchup contains acetic acid/spirit vinegar.

For feeding hedges it was recommended that 4oz fertilizer (Q4) or fish, blood and bone, be mixed into a handful of vermiculite spread within a couple of sheets of kitchen roll, rolled up into a ball, and planted about 10-15 cm below soil level, 1m apart along the length of the hedgerow. These little bombs can be expected to last for two years. If using among shrubs/roses, one bomb per three plants should be sufficient. The vermiculite absorbs the fertilizer and distributes the feed slowly over the two year period, rather than the fertilizer washing away with natural rainfall. We were told that this also reduces stream/river pollution with nitrates.

M.E

A recipe for April

Here's a super simple recipe for a quick and easy tart. It can be made a little while in advance and served at room temperature or served straight from the oven.

Hot smoked salmon and asparagus tart

Ingredients

320g sheet of ready-rolled all-butter puff pastry
180g pack of full-fat cream cheese
4 tbsp good quality fresh pesto
Pinch of sea salt flakes
100g fine asparagus spears
Olive oil
100g peas
150g hot-smoked salmon
Handful of watercress

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6. Unroll the puff pastry on its paper and put on a baking tray. Spoon all of the cream cheese into a mixing bowl, stir a little to soften, then gently stir in the fresh pesto and a pinch of sea salt flakes until well marbled.
2. Brush the asparagus spears with a little olive oil. Using the tip of a small sharp knife, score a border 1.5cm from the edge of the pastry. Spread the cream cheese mixture inside the border. Top with the asparagus, peas (defrosted if frozen) and bake on the middle shelf of the oven for 20 minutes until the edges of the tart are golden brown and puffed up.
3. Remove from the oven and flake over the hot-smoked salmon, then return to the oven to bake for a further 5 minutes. Top with a handful of watercress and drizzle over a little extra pesto to serve.

Braised herby radishes

Ingredients

50g butter
350g mixed seasonal radishes
1 crushed garlic clove
100ml dry white wine
Large handful of mixed chopped fresh dill, parsley and mint

Method

1. Heat the butter in a large deep pan over a medium-high heat, then add the radishes, halved or quartered depending on size. Turn down the heat to medium and cook for 1 minute.
 2. Add the garlic and white wine. Turn up the heat and bubble for 5 minutes until most of the liquid has evaporated. Season, then stir in a large handful of mixed chopped fresh dill, parsley and mint. Serve warm.
- Why not try these delicious braised radishes on the side with a green salad?



I really hope you enjoy these recipes, Toby Barrett.

www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

Headley Shop newsletter April 2024

Newspaper accounts co-ordinator required

Shortly, it will be sixteen years since the community took over the running of the Shop, initially from premises in Ashford Hill Road and since 2011, from The Old Baptist Church in Thornford Road. Many of you will know that the Shop and Post Office is run by a volunteer Management Committee with six part time employees. In addition, the Shop could not function without the support of many volunteers who perform various tasks, whether helping in the Shop to assist the paid supervisors on weekdays or opening the shop at weekends/bank holidays and delivering newspapers. The popular weekly community cafe and monthly village lunches are also run by volunteers. It is a tribute to all those involved that the Shop was set up in the first place and has continued to flourish with so many people being involved and making a contribution. So our thanks to all those and for your continued support.

We are fortunate that two principal roles on the Management Committee are performed by individuals still under the age of 70! The majority of our volunteers are septuagenarians and are not getting any younger so we could do with an infusion of new and younger blood. Volunteering would ideally suit someone who may have recently retired from active work, has time on their hands and are looking for a diversion away from the garden or household duties.

There are many individuals who could be mentioned for their contribution in running the Shop since 2008. Mary Bayly, together with her husband Richard, were instrumental, with others, in setting up the Shop as a community venture. In addition to many other functions, Mary has been our newspaper accounts co-ordinator for the whole of that time. Whilst she has no intention of giving up that role in the foreseeable future, as years advance she does think it would be wise to have an understudy who could step in if she was not available.

The task as co-ordinator does not involve serving at the till and does not require any



accounting skills – just basic arithmetic and the ability to use the computer and printer. In terms of time, it involves about one hour a week, usually on a Thursday or Friday and about two hours towards the end of each month, usually on a Saturday, to generate invoices. This is a voluntary and unpaid role but you will be well looked after with coffee and probably cake! Anyone interested should contact Mary through the Shop and she will make contact with you.

It should be mentioned that the sale of newspapers is an important revenue stream for the Shop with an extensive delivery round from Ecchinswell through to Crookham Common and Brimpton.

With the lighter evenings, warmer Summer weather and the opportunity to sit outside again, try out our range of locally produced beers from the Renegade Brewery (formerly West Berkshire Brewery), Flower Pots Brewery at Cheriton and Flack's Brewery at Romsey as well as our range of red, white, rose, sparkling and prosecco wines.

Cool down with an ice cream; we stock the Jude's range, including ones for our canine friends as well as a multitude of products in the Wall's freezer including Magnums, Feasts and Cornettos.

On new products, we have introduced a few products not previously stocked. We now sell a limited range of herbs, Oxo and Knorr stocks and other condiments.

For shop opening times see page 28.

The Management Committee

Saint George's Day: 23rd April – A Day For England

St George is the Patron Saint of England. His emblem, a red cross on a white background, is the flag of England and part of the British Union flag. St George's cross was adopted by Richard I (aka the Lionheart / Cœur de Lion), brought to England in the 12th century and the king's soldiers wore it on their tunics to avoid confusion in battle with their enemies. It was probably these 12th century Crusaders who first invoked his name as their champion in battle. However, England is not the only country to have him as their Patron Saint, having been adopted as early as the 11th century by many other countries, cities, professions and organisations all over the world, from Europe to Rio de Janeiro. Since the 15th century St George's Day has been celebrated with church services (to which attendance was compulsory!), flag flying, feasting, parades and dancing – a national holiday as merry as Christmas Day, which some heritage organisations are trying to revive, and other countries who also have him as their Patron Saint continue to celebrate this day.

Although he is popularly identified with England and English ideals of honour, bravery and gallantry, he wasn't English at all. So, who was St. George, and what did he do to become England's Patron Saint? Very little is known about his life, but it is thought George was a Cappadocian Greek, from Anatolia, now part of Turkey and a high ranking officer in the Roman army. He was tortured and sentenced to death by the Roman Emperor Diocletian for refusing to

renounce his Christian faith in probably AD 303. He became one of the most recognised saints and megalomartys in Christianity, and he has been especially venerated as a military saint since the Crusades. However, despite some of the most terrible torture even for that time, St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine. His head was later taken to Rome where it was interred in the church of San Giorgio in Velabro, which is dedicated to him, and his body lies in the Greek Orthodox church of St George, in Lod in Israel.

Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe. The best-known story about St George is his fight with a dragon, but it is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more doubtful that he ever visited England! However his name was known there as early as the eighth-century. In the Middle Ages, dragons were commonly used to represent the Devil. Unfortunately the many legends connected with St. George's name are most likely fictitious, and the slaying of the 'Dragon' was first credited to him in the 12th century on the flat topped Dragon Hill near Uffington, Berkshire (under the shadow of the ancient carved white horse on a neighbouring slope), and it is said that no grass grows where the dragon's blood trickled down – so the legend relates! (And Dragon Hill is also believed to be Tolkien's Weathertop in Lord of the Rings.)



Statue of St George by Donatello in the Bargello Museum, Florence

King Edward III pronounced St George as the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in his name in 1350 and the Chapel of St George at Windsor was dedicated to him. In 1415 the cult of the saint was further advanced by King Henry V at the battle of Agincourt in northern France. Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St George, and in his play Henry V, his pre-battle speech finishes with the famous phrase: "Cry God for Harry, England and St George"! King Henry, who was both warlike and devout, was thought by his followers to possess many of the saint's characteristics.

Interestingly Shakespeare was born on St George's Day in 1564, and it is thought he also died on St George's Day in 1616. An appropriate end perhaps for the man who helped to immortalise the saint in an English tradition.

Jean Froissart (1337 – 1405)
a chronicler of historical events

Manda Russell Robbins

April's Charms

by William Henry Davies (1871 - 1940)

When April scatters charms of
primrose gold
Among the copper leaves in
thickets old,
And singing skylarks from the
meadows rise,
To twinkle like black stars in
sunny skies.

When I can hear the small
woodpecker ring
Time on a tree for all the birds that sing;
And hear the pleasant cuckoo, loud
and long –
The simple bird that thinks two notes
a song.



**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF
THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
12th FEBRUARY 2024**

Present

Mr S Hoskins (Chair), Mr P Clark, Mr S Dunn, Mrs K Parker, Mr J Sunley, Mr J Woodford and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall. Cllr Mellor, Cllr Rhatigan, Cllr Bound and Cllr Morrow were also present together with members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Saunders.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

The Chair had requested that the Clerk compile a paper to reflect all outstanding issues from previous minutes in order not to overlook matters that still needed to be resolved. The updated paper would be the basis for discussion under agenda item 4 for forthcoming meetings.

The paper was worked through at the meeting and would be amended according to the updates provided by Councillors and the Clerk.

The matters arising from the paper that had been partially concluded or that required further action included;

- Cllr Clark had previously reported that a meeting was scheduled later in the month with Cllr Rhatigan and Mark Smallfield from BDBC to discuss the potential of a site for allotments.

Update: A meeting to discuss a potential allotment was still to be arranged.

Cllr Sunley confirmed that the two outstanding issues relating to the new goal posts and nets for Ashford Hill recreation ground and the relocation of the defibrillator to the Ashford Hill Village Hall location, would be dealt with before the next meeting.

Update: Cllr Sunley had contacted Scofell to arrange a date for the installation of the goal posts and nets. Later in the meeting, it was decided that the defibrillator currently located at the primary school in Ashford Hill would remain in its current location and the purchase of a new defibrillator for Ashford Hill Village Hall would be considered in the future.

- Cllr Sunley agreed to look at the broken wooden bollard at the Ashford Hill recreation ground car park.

Update: Cllr Sunley would contact Mr A Miles to obtain a quote for the replacement of bollards.

- Cllr Bound kindly agreed to add more information to the County Council's website regarding the problem of detritus on pavements on the A339 in Headley on the pavements between Headley Tyres and the county border at Knightsbridge.

Update: The Highways portal showed that the work required had been registered and would be undertaken within 2 months.

- Cllr Saunders agreed to take photographs of the re-laid pavement following works undertaken by Gigaclear and send them with a supporting statement to 'Streetworks'.

Update: Completed.

- Weatherproof path from Thornford Road to the Headley Pavilion

Update: Cllr Dunn had received a quote for £2135 to excavate a pathway from

Thornford Road to the Headley Pavilion steps which would include the laying of a 'geotextile' woven membrane for the path as well as for hard standing for parking.

Cllr Clark proposed the undertaking of the path installation which was seconded by Cllr Parker. The Clerk was asked to inform the contractor to proceed.

Cllr Woodford commented on Cllr Morrow's report which referred to the Basingstoke & Deane 'Pride in Place Fund' and suggested that the fund may be a resource to fund the access path to the Headley Pavilion. The Clerk would enquire with the Council but if funding was not forthcoming the path would be funded from the residue of the award from 'The Headley Trust' and The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts'. *

- Cllr Woodford to resurrect CSW membership and liaise with the local police authority reference to confirming that the proposed equipment for monitoring motorists' speeds was the only approved equipment and only available from Westcotec – covered in emails from Cllr Woodford on 16 & 17 December 2023 supplemented by email sent by Chair asking who the new Co-ordinator is to replace Cllr Woodford.

Update: Cllr Parker would enrol 4 volunteers to undertake the speed monitoring in both villages by requesting them to complete an application form provided by the police authority. A Ms Stacey Power, an Ashford Hill resident, had kindly agreed to act as the Co-ordinator for the scheme.

- Presentation by the local police authority

Update: The Clerk had contacted the Basingstoke Rural Neighbourhood

Policing Team and had arranged for Sergeant Martyn Evans to make a presentation about rural crime and the 'Hampshire Alerts' initiative which alerts signed up members to report and be alerted to crimes in the area. Parishioners are encouraged to join the 'Hampshire Alerts' initiative and to undertake a short community survey;

<https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk>

<https://survey.hampshirealert.co.uk>

The presentation will take place on Monday 13th May 2024 at Ashford Hill Village Hall following the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

- Rio Fitness 'Boot camp' on Ashford Hill recreation ground

Update: The Clerk had contacted David Cahill regarding the arrangements for the 'boot camp' to take place on Ashford Hill recreation ground and had received a copy of the company's Public Liability Insurance cover.

- Playgrounds – treatment of algae

Update: Scofell has undertaken treatment of the algae on the flooring of the two playgrounds. The Clerk raised a related 'matter arising' insofar as the requirement to cut back excessive epicormic growth on a tree in the Ashford Hill recreation ground car park. Scofell had provided a quote for £250 to undertake the appropriate work on the tree. Cllr Sunley proposed that the work should proceed, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Clark.

- Cllr Mellor had requested an outline of a specification from the Parish Council following its request for a public pavement to be installed along Thornford Road in Headley

Update: Cllr Mellor had provided the Chair

with additional information regarding a potential pavement, and it was agreed that the Chair would contact residents who would be affected by such a proposal in order to receive their opinions.

Cllr Woodford commented on the minute of January's meeting which referred to the potential siting of EV charging points in Ashford Hill car parks. Cllr Woodford was concerned about the noise pollution of such stations and the potential impact on residents. Whilst this point was noted, Cllr Morrow, who originated the question, confirmed to the meeting that funding was currently not available for this initiative to proceed.

5. Highways

The Chair had been in conversation with Cllr Mellor regarding the condition of the B3051 and it was agreed that a Highways Manager would inspect the road to consider any remedial works. Cllr Sunley reported to the meeting that some degree of remedial work had been carried out that day on the road in question but not to a very high standard and reiterated how the unsatisfactory condition of the road affected the houses and residents living along that stretch of the B3051. Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that the inferior work carried out on the same road by the housing development company had been reported to the management of the company who were awaiting traffic control permission from HCC in order to allow them to undertake more suitable repairs.

Cllr Mellor had provided the Chair with additional information regarding a potential pavement in Thornford Road in Headley, and it was agreed that the Chair would contact residents who would be affected by such a proposal in order to receive their opinions. *

Cllr Parker reported on what appeared to be fly tipping on Huntsmoor Hill as well as a chevron sign on the hill which had been dislodged. Cllr Parker would report the matters to the relevant Councils. *

The ongoing flooding of the highway near to Kerry Lodge / Fair Oak Farm / Sasron in the direction of Ashford Hill village was raised again by Cllr Clark who whilst agreeing with the conclusions when the matter was discussed at the last meeting, remained very concerned about the worsening situation on the road which posed a major hazard to drivers. Further discussion ensued which involved Cllr Mellor and Cllr Woodford and it was agreed that Cllr Woodford would send the Chair the email string of previous correspondence with the Highways department which had suggested the water jet blasting of the culvert under the road which may be blocked and causing the flooding to become worse than it had been in previous weeks. *

6. Planning Applications

23/03128/FUL – The Old Baptist Church, Thornford Road, Headley; Installation of 16 no. ground mounted photovoltaic solar panels to provide power to the Community Shop: No objection

24/00118/LBC – Holdrop House, Holdrop Hill, Headley; Proposed replacement of dormer windows to rear extension and replacement window to cloakroom, insertion of double doors to rear extension: No objection

21/03656/ FUL – Land north of The Chalet, Newbury Road, Headley; Erection of 14 no. dwellings and associated works: Original objection reiterated

24/00229/LDEU – Workshop & office rear of Goose Hill House, Ashford Hill Road, Goose Hill; Certificate of lawfulness for the existing commercial use: No objection

7. Reports

County Councillor's verbatim report:

“Budget Consultation

There has been widespread coverage of the consultation document seeking the public's views on where there can be cuts in the budget for 25/26 when, given the current situation, HCC expects there to be a shortfall of c£125M. Unfortunately, the media seemed to take this as a “given” with all the options being taken as a certainty! Far from it, HCC still pursues the Govt for full funding on issues and is hopeful that this will be achieved. Still, as opposed to the likes of Birmingham, Southampton, where the Govt has had to step in because of serious shortfalls in the past year(s), the strategy of the Council is one of working two years ahead to ensure budgets will be met with minimum inconvenience to the residents.

Hampshire County Council is in reasonable shape – would be one of the last of the local Authorities to seek some Section 114 action. HCC currently has some £700M in reserve – committed reserve for some expenditures and HCC will dip into that if necessary for the 24/5 budget which will be approved this week. HCC has the lowest Council Tax of the shires and it could be debated that had we not frozen Council Tax for 5 years in the period of austerity circa 2011/2 -16 then perhaps we would not be forecasting a deficit; perhaps too had the county not borne some share of HMG'S £400BN

additional generous expenditure during COVID with benefits, furlough schemes and at times bordering on recession, then the current priority of reducing national debt would have not been so dramatic as to affect everything the Govt can do. Suffice to say, many expect the Govt to be more generous in compensating County Councils for some of its enforced expenditure such that the sought after savings will not be so large.

I would ask all PC members and residents to give some thought to the consultation. Obviously, some of the Councils £2.3Bn turnover is for statutory issues... the Children's Services including education and Adult Social Care are difficult to consider further savings on an ever growing budget; however there are areas such as Home to School Transport where the costs will have escalated from £32M to est. £70M per annum by 2026 – some unnecessary but enforced by long outdated legislation. This is largely resultant from commitments to transport SEN students where we will probably need to ‘cut’ or rather find other ways of financing. There are some smaller items being considered such as HWRC where some small tips, mostly close to other tips, could be shelved or replaced by very large tips more in line with recycling requirements (again, my ward is not involved in that) and also the subject of Lollipop ladies/gents being formally reduced; there are some 111 vacancies not filled as difficult to find replacements nor do schools regularly say they want them. Alternative ways of protecting the children are available. In Tadley Baughurst and the other villages in my ward, we do not employ them, and

safety has not been impaired nor has there been any negative comment re the need.

Bus Back Better and/or Active Space transportation.

HCC is committed to better public transport along with more Active Space Mobility, be it Cycle and walking paths or e.g. better bus schedules. Normally, where a service is justified but unlikely to break even, subsidies must be used to ensure the likes of Stagecoach in Basingstoke and Deane can operate viably. Am pleased to advise therefore that the high frequency No 2 service from Basingstoke to Tadley/Baughurst is not subsidized, the loads have only just got back up to those enjoyed pre pandemic and the most encouraging news is that we now expect 2026 to see the implementation of a full electric fleet replacing the low emission buses we currently have on the route. Of course, the route has the benefit of many passengers alighting/joining at the hospital; irrespective of the outcome of the decision as to where the new hospital will be built, we see a steady improvement in the bus services in our area; a bit odd therefore that the pan Hampshire consultation features possible savings. The extension of the £2 flat fare is welcomed and although we believe, as do the passengers when surveyed, that the Senior Citizen Concession could possibly bear a small administration fee (the law would have to change), we do not foresee much change there. Perhaps we will be looking at more small bus operations to serve the villages; having mentioned that, demand for Community Transport is not high be it Dial a Ride, Taxishare etc. I have nothing to report re the joint Link service on the A339.

The cycle /walking path network has been comprehensive in the South of the County and now things are starting to move in the North. We still have not fully finalized the network in the Tadley / Baughurst area – again there is a budget limitation on what can be done but still anticipate work to start in 2024/5.

Highways

A further statistical report on progress was dispatched in January. The news of budget increases for Highways Maintenance by HMG grant to appease the national issue of potholes is very welcome and will be used extensively. This was on top of the divergence of some funds for projects such as major road resurfacing on the A roads to pothole filling etc and will only be realized once additional maintenance crews are recruited etc. The drop in pothole reports/updates is pleasing yet surprising considering the weather issues since December with record rainfall (a plus being little frost) precluding some work and possibly damaging recent activity. The rural areas admittedly lose out in frequency of coverage due proximity and the problem being that the haunches cannot benefit from the technology – nor are a priority as they tend to be C / unlisted roads. Once there is sufficient work in the area then Highways Ops dispatch. When the crews have their allocated duty, we now find that the ‘Find It, Fix it’ scheme where some early repair work is undertaken on non-reported surface issues seen during their coverage of the allocated work is very productive in cutting down calls. Still though the issue remains; the road structure in rural areas is old; the problem of haunches not being filled is now being looked at and of course

we anticipate more flood activity as the effects of Climate Change continue. It was good to see lengthsman activity clearing some of the ditches in the past few weeks to steer more water from the road surface. The cooperation of the landowners in this respect is very welcome. Where there are banks/bunds precluding surface water from returning to the gullies, then HCC has been creating a relief; in some areas where there are no banks/bunds between the road and the ditch and only natural drainage then we have a real problem. The water table is very high, landowners have nowhere to pump the water too. Responsibility for the drainage issues like this is explained in the website.

Finally, in respect of Highways, the issue of speed limits continues. I reported last year on the outcome of a HCC Working group that reviewed dropping the 30mph limit to 20mph in some residential / urban areas. The outcome of the report /consultation with response from 10000 residents/councillors etc was pretty much to extend the usual areas but focus on enforcement at 30mph rather than any 20 limits outside the current areas. There is though going to be an opportunity for Parishes to introduce speed limits at their expense; this awaits finalization but of course would be dependent on those parishes securing good developer contributions be they CIL or S106 to contribute to the cost of the Community Funded Initiative. Clearly the agenda focus is moving from potholes etc to EV charging and, should there be any developments in legislation, pavement parking.

Health and Social Care

HCC is to spend some £173M on new Care Homes with a focus on dementia.

These will add capacity and modernize the facilities we offer at a much lower cost than private care homes levy. Social Care in Hampshire costs more than £1Billion pa and with the population that is over 85 years in age increasing by 1000 per annum in the County, this programme is essential. Locally in B & D the Oakridge facility will be replaced and expanded.

Children’s Services

Hampshire CC is one of the very few Children’s Services that is overall Outstanding. As to whether this can be continued with a new Ofsted system for inspection now in place, only time will tell. January registrations were as expected and with 97% of the children getting their 1st or 2nd choice in my ward. HCC continues to plan/open another 12 schools in the next five years, some because of new development sites, others due upgrading requirements. More on that in March.

Climate Change

The annual HCC report on Climate Change activity was published in December and it is an excellent document. Whilst every decision in Hampshire must consider the effects on Climate Change, the output is clear that economic development does have a role to play. Worth a read, locally too I have supported some green activity with my County Councillors Devolved Budget. Always happy listen to any new projects in the Division, be they ‘Repair Shops or school Farm projects etc.

A big thank you to Ashford Hill Headley for their new initiative re Rights of Way; to Baughurst PC for their work on the Repair Shop; to Ecchinswell/Bishops Green for their backing the local Community Association and of course

Tadley TC for the help and understanding the difficulties caused by the land grab activities in their patch which have certainly occupied some of my time in the past 3 months.”

Borough Councillors' reports

Cllr Rhatigan reported that he was concerned regarding the Parish Council's continued opposition to the 'Sawmill' housing development application. As Cllr Rhatigan had previously explained, the deferred scheme would still include social housing which was of a high standard and was an essential local provision and which would be difficult to procure from other social housing organisations in the future.

Cllr Rhatigan expressed his concern regarding the amount of accumulated litter in the drainage pond on the Oakfield estate which demonstrated the problems associated with not having a management company taking care of such matters.

Cllr Bound had previously sent the Clerk his report which had been forwarded on to Parish Councillors. Cllr Bound further reported that the Wrens Farm planning application appeal had not been successful.

Cllr Morrow welcomed comments from residents regarding the Borough Council's 'Housing Land Supply Position'. The Council's 'biodiversity' strategy was taking shape with the appointment of a Liaison Officer to engage with local groups. Cllr Morrow further reported on the work of the 'MAD' team who were undertaking the clearing up of sites throughout the borough.

Chair of the Parish Council

The Chair had sent the Clerk his opinions regarding the potential spending priorities

of future County Council's budgets which had been accompanied by opinions expressed separately by Cllr Woodford and Cllr Dunn.

The Chair and Cllr Parker had attended a recent presentation on the Code of Conduct for Councillors presented by officers of the Borough Council. The Clerk had distributed hard and electronic copies of the presentation which the Chair urged each Councillor to read and absorb as it was an important code by which he would want to conduct the business of the Parish Council. Following several questions from the Chair and Cllr Parker following the presentation, the Clerk was able to confirm to the meeting that the latest code and pledge had been adopted by the Parish Council in 2020 and the new code forms part of any new Parish Councillors' induction. The Clerk was also able to confirm the upkeep of the Register of Interests which again formed part of the induction programme for new Parish Councillors.

The Chair expressed that it was important for Parish Councillors when communicating via email to parishioners and third parties in their capacities as Councillors on any matter that the content of the communication is first shared with the Chair and/or Clerk to ensure it is appropriate and accurate.

The Chair reported that the garden fence of a resident in Thornford Road had been repaired by the Parish Council as damage had been caused by a fallen tree on Headley recreation ground and that another tree was required to be removed and a quote was being obtained for its removal. *

The Chair and Cllr Parker had visited Cheam School to meet with the Bursar to discuss several issues including the

proactive steps the school had recently taken to improve the road congestion and pollution caused by parents 'dropping of' and 'picking up' their children. The strategy had included the use of several buses to collect pupils from the vicinity of their homes and to return them home at the end of the school day which had significantly reduced the number of vehicular movements at peak times of the day. The school was very keen to work with the community generally and other meetings were planned for the future.

On receipt of information regarding outdoor gym equipment designed to improve adult health, the Chair agreed would be given consideration as a future project to improve the 'recreational grounds' facilities.

The Chair had received plans from the Cricket Club to install new doors to the pavilion in Ashford Hill. Ashford Hill Councillors had been consulted over the design and there had not been any objection to the proposal and the Clerk would inform the Club accordingly.

The Ashford Hill Gardening Club had contacted the Chair regarding a request for a grant from the Parish Council to assist the Club with their financial deficit. Councillors expressed a divergence of opinion regarding the funding of local clubs and organisations. It was agreed that grants should be awarded and based on specific criteria being met which included that any grant awarded was on a 'one off' basis and it was not guaranteed that the grant would be given in subsequent years and therefore any grant awarded could not be guaranteed as yearly income. The Clerk interjected to give some context to the debate insofar as to explain what

S137 funding was designed for in terms of the Parish Council supporting local clubs, organisations and events and how that practice had reduced over the years which in essence had been used in the past to promote social cohesion. The Chair proposed that a 'one off' grant of £200 be awarded to the Ashford Hill Gardening Club and by a majority show of hands, the proposal was adopted.

The Clerk confirmed to the Chair that Mr David Cahill from Rio Fitness had been contacted to confirm the Parish Council's approval to use the Ashford Hill recreation ground for a weekly 'boot camp' event and Mr Cahill had supplied the Clerk with a copy of Rio Fitness's Public Liability Insurance cover.

The Chair suggested two alternative dates for the annual 'litter pick' to take place which were Saturday 16 March or Saturday 23 March 2024. The Chair requested that Councillors inform him of their preferred date. *

Parish Councillors' reports

Cllr Woodford reported on the installation of appropriate signage aimed at cyclists at the entrance to the Ashford Hill recreation ground and at the entrance to Butler's wood. Cllr Woodford expressed his congratulations to Cllr Hoskins for his succession to the post of Chair of the Parish Council and offered his fullest co-operation in providing information and support in the coming months.

Cllr Parker reported on the training that had been completed by the RoW volunteers but expressed concern regarding the amount of administrative based bureaucracy required by HCC including the requirement for all volunteers to be first aid trained as well as the

need to have insurance policy cover in place. Cllr Clark agreed to pass on to Cllr Parker the contact details of the new gamekeeper for Pelham Woods. Cllr Parker would be looking into the safety issues at the water meadows when there was better weather, and Cllr Rhatigan expressed concern over the slippery nature of the broad walks across the meadow.

Cllr Dunn further reported on the questionnaires that had been distributed with the Parish Magazine and that were available on the Council's website until the end of the month, which related to the idea of installing a 'multi use games area' on Headley recreation ground and which were seeking the opinions of residents for such a facility on the recreation ground. Cllr Dunn reported that most respondents to the questionnaire had been in favour of such a provision.

The Chair had previously reported that the Parish Council had been awarded £30,000 towards the cost of a MUGA by the government's 'Shared Prosperity Fund' from the Department of Levelling up, Housing & Communities.

Whilst the specific location of any MUGA was still under consideration together with other considerations such as fencing and lighting, the Chair requested approval from Councillors to proceed with these considerations which would include the planning application stage for the MUGA as funding for the potential project was now in place. All Councillors present were in favour of continuing with the feasibility study for such a project.

8. Recess

There were no questions or comments for the Chair from the public other than consideration being asked to be paid to the defibrillator located at the primary school remaining which was agreed upon by the Council.

9. Financial statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £6876.23

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £27,862.21

10. Accounts for approval & payment

Mr A Miles

- New Headley playground fencing – £9758.88
- New picnic bench installation Headley recreation ground – £150.00
- Resident's fence repair Thornford Road / Headley recreation ground – £385.00
- Bench repair Headley recreation ground – £85.00

Monger & Rixon – Flailing of hedges on Ashford Hill recreation ground – £300.00

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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Tel: 01635 268849
 Email: headleyshop@hotmail.co.uk

Ashford Hill Educational Trust

The Trust was set up to assist residents of Ashford Hill or Headley, irrespective of age or means, to help with educational activities and recreational training.

The deadline for applications is two weeks ahead of each meeting. All applications must be accompanied by receipts.

2024 Meeting Dates

10th April, 17th July, 16th October

Contact Julie.bassett1@btinternet.com
 07500 927707

Kingsclere Charities - Welfare Charity

The Charity helps anyone resident in the Parish of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley regardless of age or means. Grants have been given towards mobility aids, medical equipment, such as nebulisers and aids to make life easier for the sick and less mobile; and travel costs to and from hospital.

Contact: Jan Pearce

Email: kingsclerecharities@iname.com

Website: www.kingsclerecharities.org

Kingsclere Charities –

The Robert Higham Apprenticing Charity

This Charity promotes the education and training of young people aged 16 - 25 resident in Kingsclere, Ashford Hill or Headley.

Grants are awarded to assist with the cost of: Equipment, books and specialist clothing required for learning or training in a stated subject, and expenses incurred in travelling to and from home to place of learning.

Contact: Jan Pearce

Email: kingsclerecharities@iname.com

Website www.kingsclerecharities.org

Kingsclere Charities Meetings:

2024 Meeting Dates

18th April, 20th June
 19th Sept, 21st Nov

Village hall contacts & hire rates

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Steve Dunn	07802 911112
Hourly rate	£8.50
Children's party rate	£50.00

Local representatives

Parish Council

Contact the Councillors via their email address which are all structured in the same way, viz: cllr.firstname.secondname@ashfordhillheadleypc.org – e.g. see the Chairman's email address

Chairman – Stephen Hoskins – cllr.stephen.hoskins@ashfordhillheadleypc.org

Ashford Hill ward councillors – Joe Woodford; Paul Clark; Jules Sunley

Headley ward councillors – Kathryn Saunders; Steve Dunn; Karen Parker

Clerk – Steven Marshall: clerk@ashfordhillheadleypc.org – 07714 001778

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Councillors

Ken Rhatigan – cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk – 07850 530319

Kerry Morrow – cllr.kerry.morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk – 07725 819021

Mike Bound – cllr.mike.bound@basingstoke.gov.uk – 078336 12735

Hampshire County Councillor Derek Mellor – derek.mellor@hants.gov.uk – 07712 695491

Member of Parliament Kit Malthouse – kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk – 01264 401401

Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones –

www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/contact-us – 01962 871595

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