

LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2010

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2010

Please note that this Newsletter, whilst preserving strictly a non-political nature, provides a forum for the views of the people of Leigh Woods and Long Ashton. The members of the Parish Council do not necessarily share those views.

Un-attributed articles however are meant in general to be for the information and entertainment of the public and are largely authoritative.

The Editorial Group reserve the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication.

Editorial Group for this issue - Marilyn Addis MBE, Jean Pullin and Mary Uppington

*By submitting articles for publication
you are also giving approval that they will also be used
on the Parish Council website.*

DISTRIBUTION

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Future copy should be clearly labelled 'NEWSLETTER' and sent to

45 Long Ashton Road, Bristol BS41 9HW.

The CLOSING DATE for copy for the next edition covering the 4 months
November & December 2010 and January & February 2011 is

midday 1st October 2010

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Cover photo - The Long Ashton Activities Fair held in May 2010

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Resident,

As a new incumbent to the position of Parish Council Chairman I feel it is my duty and pleasure to thank the outgoing chairman Mr. Charles Cave for what can only be described as an outstanding contribution to the community over the last three years. He has exercised tireless effort in upholding and championing the rights of the Long Ashton community in these troubled times and he deserves our heart felt thanks.

The threat to land surrounding Long Ashton still continues although hopefully reduced by the new coalition government's abandonment of the Regional Spatial Strategy. Bristol Airport however received the unitary council's approval for its expansion to accommodate 10 million passengers which will exacerbate the already difficult problems associated with the Airport but hopefully North Somerset Council will spend the large sums required to reduce the impact on local communities by vastly improving the communication links. We as a Parish Council will continue to encourage North Somerset to fulfil its obligations. The Airport decision made by North Somerset may however be subject to a legal challenge by other interest groups.

We await several planning decisions in regard to the University Land, Barrow Hospital etc and can only hope that they go in our favour but we will continue to monitor and comment on their progress.

The result of the Failand planning appeal has yet to be announced and published but we also hope for a favourable decision on behalf of the local residents but the case was vigorously exercised by all parties. I would at this point like to thank Mary Uppington for her tireless work in the area of Planning. Planning Chairman opinion carries the hardest work load of all the committees and Mary has done, sterling work but the amount of time she has to dedicate is onerous and in an effort to help we have this year appointed a Vice Chairman to assist. It is often not realised that all those who sit on the Parish Council receive no monetary reward whatsoever indeed it is more often the case, at personal cost to themselves, so this fact really puts Mary's efforts into sharp focus.

Chairman's Newsletter continued

The completion by North Somerset of the junction of the A370/B3128 has now been completed and we can only hope that the changes imposed by the Highway Planners will have the desired effect and significantly reduce the accident incidence on this junction. The Parish Council would appreciate the reporting of any accident to either the Parish Clerk or myself so we can monitor the effect.

The incidence of speeding in the village still vexes the Parish Council and we will continue to monitor and attempt to alleviate this very dangerous problem. Main areas of concern seem to be Providence Lane, Long Ashton Road and Yanley Lane.

Although these are the worst the whole village is affected. Parking also causes disruption and dangers and with the Stadium being approved the eastern end of the village may be seriously inconvenienced on match days and events days. We must remember this is not just a football ground but a commercial venture with multiple usage and may cause serious inconvenience to residents especially if they coincide with events at Ashton Court. It is with this in mind that we have entered into discussions with North Somerset Council and The Stadium Management to discuss alleviation plans at an early stage. I am sure the residents of Long Ashton will question the decision made by North Somerset in regard to the New BCFC Stadium, Airport and new junction and perhaps may feel they wish to comment to the officers who have recommended the decisions which will have such impact upon our village.

The community suffered a deep loss with the passing of Andrée Peel and this was illustrated by the huge turnout and media interest at her funeral. One can only admire such heroism in time of war and she will be sadly missed.

The Festival Way cycle track continues to be extended and the initial plans for the crossing at Yanley Lane and the link between Yanley Lane and the B3128 will be hopefully brought before the highways and planning committees soon. The completion of this section will give the cycle track some real benefit to our community and help the safe cycle link to Bristol. If you have any comment or query on this section such as how it will affect yourself or such things as Public Rights of Way please contact the Parish Clerk so we can pass this on during the final planning stage.

.....continued

Chairman's Newsletter continued

Litter and fly tipping continue to blight the village and we all, I am sure, appreciate the small band of people who continue to pick up this nasty waste so in my first Newsletter I would like to wholeheartedly thank this hardy bunch of community minded people. I would encourage others to emulate this group.

Now some good news. Birdwell School enlargement is underway and there should be visible signs of building in the not too distant future. I am sure we all share some optimism that children born in the village should be able to be educated in their local school.

The new playing/sports fields are moving ahead and some more work has been undertaken although we would like to see more haste in the completion of this benefit to the community. Moves are also afoot to create a youth café/centre within Long Ashton and anyone wishing to support or help this excellent venture should contact Cllr. Phil Jackson. I am sure it has been noted that the financial committee chaired by Jonathan Skeeles managed to hold the Parish Council's precept/rate levy at the same rate as last year and in these times of financial difficulties I am sure the community in Long Ashton are very thankful for this small but valuable help.

Certainly the recent weather has helped everyone feel a little more enthused and I wish everyone a pleasant, prosperous and relaxed summer.

Regards,

Nigel Moorcroft, Long Ashton Parish Council Chairman.



WESTLEAZE W.I.

Meetings are held in the Church House at 7.30 pm
on the 1st Wednesday in the month

August	NO MEETING
September 1st	MEMBERS' MEMENTOS Competition: A favourite snack for sharing
October 6th	GARDENS OF FRANCE - Mr. Hargreaves Competition: Picture of French Chateau or Garden



LAILA **(LONG ASHTON INDEPENDENT** **LADIES ASSOCIATION)**

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month
at 7.15pm in the Village Hall

July 21st	MUSICAL MEMORIES - Terry Merrett-Smith
August	NO MEETING
September 15th	MARIANNE NORTH VICTORIAN FLORAL ARTIST -Gina Merrett-Smith
October 20th in the Pavilion	BINGO - CHEESE and WINE

GOOD COMPANIONS

What is it?

A club for ladies who meet on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4pm in the Jubilee Pavilion at the Community Centre.

What do they do?

- Listen to occasional speakers or entertainers
 - Play Bingo, Whist, Scrabble, Dominoes
 - Visit pubs and restaurants for lunch
- Go on coach outings during the summer

If you are lonely or looking for something new why not join us for a trial?

A team of volunteer car drivers is available to give lifts to those who find the journey to the Community Centre a little bit too far.

Telephone Jean Pullin 393617 for more information.

LONG ASHTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society

to be held on

Thursday 7th October at 7.30 pm

in the Jubilee Pavilion

begins the new season when details of further meetings will be available.

Roy Pullin Tel: 393617



Activities Fair

The Activities Fair organised by the Long Ashton Community Association in May was a huge success with 39 groups attending and a good flow of people coming to find out about participating in the wide range of activities available.



The event was opened by Miranda Krestovnikoff (BBC presenter) who really encouraged us all to get involved in local activities as Long Ashton is probably a unique village with all that it has to offer. We would like to thank all the groups who attended for their time and effort.

If you would like further details about the groups that run at the Community Centre, please contact Sarah Leong on 393570 or email: laca@btconnect.com Alternatively have a look at our website:

www.longashtoncommunitycentre.org

Date for your Diary!

After the success of last year's quiz night the Long Ashton Community Association will be holding a second quiz night on Saturday 20th November.

If you would like details sent to you nearer the time then please email: laca@btconnect.com or telephone 393570.

Watch this space!

LONG ASHTON SURGERY NEWS - JUNE 2010

Access - We offer more appointments than a year ago, which include extra appointments on three Saturday mornings and one evening each month.

Everyone is very busy and everyone's time is precious. Please help us to help you.

In April **33** Doctor Appointments and **74** Nurse Appointments were wasted by patients not attending and not letting us know.

In May **45** Doctor Appointments and **65** Nurse Appointments were wasted by patients not attending and not letting us know.

Over the last two months there were also 15 missed appointments for the Support to Stop Smoking clinic, which are 30 minutes long. There is a waiting list for this service.

This means that 4% of the doctors' appointments each month could be used by other patients and 20% of the nurses' appointments.

If you let us know 24 hours before that you need to cancel, we can re-use that appointment. If you let us know even the same day, we can make use of the time.

Patient Group - We have an active patient group attached to the surgery which meets 3 or 4 times a year. The next meeting is 22nd June at 7.15 pm. New members are very welcome, particularly among the younger age groups. There are many changes on the horizon for primary health care and it is important we ensure that Long Ashton is not overlooked. Contact: Sally Sterland, Chairman Tel: 01275 393591 or Eileen Butterworth, Practice Manager Tel: 01275 392134.

They have also organised several patient information evenings. The next one planned for the autumn will concentrate on Breast Cancer. Look out for posters in the village.

Minor Injuries - Long Ashton surgery does not provide a Minor Injuries service. There is a Minor Injuries Unit at Clevedon Hospital. You can also go to the Walk-In centres at Knowle and the City Centre. We do not have the facilities to offer this service.

You can find all this information on the surgery website at: www.longashtonsurgery.co.uk

It is updated every quarter. You can also order prescriptions, cancel appointments and leave messages. For anything urgent it is better to speak to us.

Eileen Butterworth - Practice Manager.



Parish Council News



Did YOU visit the Parish Council Stand at the Activities Fair?

In the 2010/11 financial year the Council intends to give the following grants:-

Youth Provision (LA)	£7,500
Nailsea Community Transport	600
NS CAB	50
St. Johns Ambulance, Nailsea	30
Drug Misuse	100
MS Therapy Centre	50
NS Victim Support	100
Nailsea Drop In Centre	50
Polish Event 21 November to commemorate the crash behind the Church in the village 60 years ago	250
Alzheimer's Society	100
LA Junior Football Club	500

“Nominated Best Kept Garden”

The Parish Council is again running its “Nominated Best Kept Garden” shield. Any resident can nominate an individual address (but not your own) and all nominations must be sent to the Clerk by 7th July. Each Long Ashton resident can nominate one garden, but not their own.

Mrs. M. Addis MBE, Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council,
45 Long Ashton Road, Bristol, BS41 9HW Tel: 393551
clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com

LONGASHTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr D Aggett	13 Fenswood Road	BS41 9BL	393876
Mr C Cave	Rudge Farm, Flax Bourton	BS48 3QS	462774
Mr R Cook	5 Warren Lane	BS41 9DA	392518
Mr J Glew	72 Long Ashton Road	BS41 9LE	392655
Ms S Hardingham	79 Providence Lane	BS41 9DL	393690
Mr M Harris	Nightingale House, Valley Rd., LW	BS8 3PZ	Br 9735878
Dr P R Jackson	90 Theynes Croft	BS41 9NN	392757
Mr N Moorcroft	Brookside Cottage, Yanley Lane	BS41 9LW	394699
Mrs S Morgan	Bridge Cottage, Yanley Lane	BS41 9LR	07855 234418
Miss A Moser	11 Ardmore, Vicarage Rd., LW	BS8 3PH	Br 9739876
Mrs A Neale	Eldon, 62 Long Ashton Road	BS41 9LE	392336
Mrs J Pullin	1 Lovelinch Gardens	BS41 9AH	393617
Mr H B Roberts	18 Belmont Drive	BS8 3UU	392395
Mr I Scoones	Failand Lawn, Clevedon Road	BS41 3TN	392676
Mr J D Skeeles	Wellow House, 7 Folleigh Drive	BS41 9JD	392724
Mr P Sterland	65 Providence Lane	BS41 9DL	393591
Mrs S Sterland	65 Providence Lane	BS41 9DL	393591
Miss M Uppington	35 Ridgeway Road	BS41 9EY	393228
Mr M Wilkinson	65 Long Ashton Rd	BS41 9HW	392381
Mr H C H Williams	35 Fenshurst Gardens	BS41 9AU	392690



Footpath Walks



..... New Organiser

The guided walks in Long Ashton are held on the first Sunday in each month, meeting at Ashton Rose Estate Agents, Weston Road, starting at 2.30 pm.

The organiser of the walks is Councillor Mrs. Suzanne Morgan who can be contacted on 078 5523 4418.

The first part of each walk is on the village streets travelling from Ashton Rose Estate Agents but the footpath conditions are variable, typical country footpaths over fields and up hills, with farm gates and stiles and can be muddy in wet weather.

I think that the walks are usually not suitable for physically disabled people or those using wheelchairs or scooters.

There is no charge for participation.

Harry Williams who led these walks for very many years has now retired.

The Parish Council wishes to extend a very big vote of thanks to him for his dedication. His wealth of local knowledge imparted on these walks will be greatly missed.



GARDEN FETE

**In the beautiful grounds of
Gatcombe Court**

**Sunday 18th July 2010
2.00 pm to 5.00 pm**

PONY RIDES

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY: PRIZES
STALLS OF LOCAL INTEREST • CREAM TEAS

Entrance by programme

(which includes Lucky Number for entry in raffle)

to be purchased at various venues in the village.

Cost £2.00 for a family of 4.

Proceeds toward Bell Restoration Fund

Details and enquiries from : Mary 392643 and Judy 393450

POLICE PACT OPEN MEETING

Wednesday 7th July 2010 at 7.30 pm

Royal British Legion Club,

1 Providence Lane, Long Ashton



PLANNING

Good News!

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is to be scrapped and local Councils have been advised they should not give any weight to its contents when they are considering current applications.

This news was well received and we understand the regional tier of Government will also be abolished with powers to decide planning policies and number of new homes given back to local Councils. We look forward to the publication of a new planning regime and hope it will lead to far more notice being taken of Parish Councils views and local knowledge.

The public inquiry concerning proposed development on land at Failand, which lies on the north west boundary of our parish, lasted for ten days - six of which took place in our village. Our Council put in a tremendous amount of preparation before speaking strongly against the proposals. Wraxall and Failand Parish Council, and their residents, also did a great deal of hard work and put forward their opposition to the scheme. We all hope the Inspector will have taken note of the points made by local people before she submits her report to the Secretary of State, for consideration, and we are told a decision will be issued on or before the 16th August.

The University of Bristol application for mixed use development, including 1,000 homes, on land south of the railway to the east of Wild Country Lane has been considered by the Parish Council. These plans to develop on high quality agricultural land in the Green Belt received no support whatsoever so the Council has recommended this application should most certainly be refused.

Bristol City Football Club have, after much opposition, now received agreement from North Somerset Councillors that the access to their new stadium can be on Green Belt land adjacent to the Park and Ride Site. One of the greatest areas of concern has been the number of vehicles which will arrive, on match days, and clog up our village. Although there are suggested plans for a residents parking scheme,

in Long Ashton, it is a pity greater notice was not taken of the estimated figures put forward by the Parish Council and other bodies instead of relying on those produced by the Football Club when the decision was made.

We still believe we shall experience many transport problems whenever there is an event at the stadium and we intend to keep a close watch on the situation.

Mary Uppington - Chairman, Planning Committee.

Children's Holiday Club @ Hebron Church

**"Rocky's Plaice"
9th - 13th August
10am - 12.30pm
Monday to Friday
Children aged 5 - 11
£5.00 per child**

**Contact Andrew Long 01275 392310
Pauline Tanner 01275 394102
email: crusaders@hebronchurch.co.uk**

Rethink Reconnect

.....offers a free service for adults with memory problems and dementia in North Somerset - our services include:

- Assistance with budgeting and setting up Direct Debits
- Advice on maintaining the home
- Information on activities to help avoid social exclusion
- Support to access other appropriate services

To find out if we can help you phone : 01934 424434



BE AWARE

parking on the pavement can incur an
on the spot fine from the Police.

Long Ashton Bowling Club

Our summer season is now well underway. The Green is looking good and playing well. Anyone interested in playing bowls is invited to join us on any Friday evening in June and July at 6.15 pm.

Woods and shoes can be provided and there is free tuition for beginners.

For more information contact Alan Lewis (Club Secretary) tel no 01275 462030 or visit website



www.longashtonbowlingclub.org.uk

“WELCOME LA”

Welcome LA is a voluntary scheme set up by the Parish Council to ensure that new residents to Long Ashton are welcomed to the village and given information about clubs, services and other organisations available. The welcome packs are delivered by a group of volunteers who are each responsible for approximately 20 homes near to where they live. The idea is simple, when you notice that someone new has moved into your assigned area, you obtain a welcome pack from Welcome LA and give it to your new neighbour in person.



As the scheme has been in operation for a number of years, some of the original volunteers have moved away or no longer wish to participate. In addition the village has increased in size. We are, therefore, looking for additional volunteers. There are too many roads to list in this article but if you are interested in becoming a Welcome LA volunteer, please contact Sally Sterland on 393591 or email sally.sterland@bristol.ac.uk

Granny Trek

The families and staff of Children’s Hospice South West send a sincere thank you to everyone who supported this year’s Granny Trek at Charlton Farm, Wraxall, on 25th April. 550 walkers took part on a lovely day, enjoying the newly emerging bluebells and fresh green countryside.

Brisk sales of the Granny Trek book are bringing in valuable funds, almost the entire purchase price of £7.99 going to the hospice due to the generous sponsorship of Bristol Water. Early reactions from readers are positive.

The book is available through the website www.grannytrek.co.uk (+p&p) or from Granny Trek, 35 Lower Road, Woolavington, Bridgwater, TA7 8EF. It would make an excellent Christmas present, so please bear it in mind when writing your lists in September!



Long Ashton Community Association

Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year ending on 31st March 2010

Activities

The objective of the Charity is to manage and maintain the Community Centre and Recreation Ground on behalf of the Parish Council, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Long Ashton. The Association aims to provide good quality facilities, at an affordable cost, to voluntary organisations serving the community as well as other groups and individuals. The Trustees meet monthly as the Management Committee for the Centre.

The Association maintains good relationships with its many users. In addition to our regular user groups there are many one-off bookings for parties, meetings, training days and other functions. We have attracted several new user groups this year, due to successful marketing by the Manager and we have also had several weddings. Both indoor and outdoor facilities continue to be well used by the local community throughout the year.

The Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the voluntary help given to the Association by many individuals in the community, especially Mrs. Maud Escott who handles the bookings for the tennis courts.

Major Projects

Major maintenance work this year included:

- resurfacing the tennis courts (£17,865)
- Work to the football pitch (£4,533)
- Work to the Bowling green watering system (£2,032)
- Exterior redecoration of Club Room (£3,100)
- Replacement of water heater in disabled toilet (£874)

We are grateful to the following for grants/donations for the tennis courts resurfacing: YANSEC (£12,000), Long Ashton Parish Council (£4,865) and the Tennis Club (£1,000); and to the Football Club (£1,026) for a donation towards the pitch maintenance.

Major expenditure from the Restricted Fund

- New door to toilets in Main Hall (£1,600)
- PA System in Jubilee Pavilion (£853)
- Third party funding for YANSEC Grant for tennis courts (£1,200)

Other Activities

1. Staff. We are grateful to our staff - Manager Sarah Leong, Caretakers Denise and Ken Harris, and Recreation Ground Warden John Hewer for their continued excellent work on our behalf. Our cleaner Pat Rossiter resigned in October. We were pleased to appoint Allison Rowlands to the job and were very sorry that she resigned at the end of April. However John Hewer has taken over this post in addition to his Recreation Ground Warden duties.

2. Management. We endeavour to manage the Centre to a high standard and were delighted to achieve the nationally recognised Hallmark 2 award in September. The Manager keeps our website and other publicity material up to date and continues to promote the Centre's facilities and activities.

Other management activities during the year included:

- issue of new contracts and Disciplinary and Grievance procedures to all our staff, complying with recent changes in employment law
- review of hiring rates for all our users, resulting in agreement to increase rates for commercial users by a higher percentage
- long term budget planning for buildings maintenance, and facilities and equipment renewal
- review of grass cutting services, resulting in change of contractor
- consideration of how we could assist with implementation of the Parish Plan

3. Vandalism and anti-social behaviour. These continue to be a problem, with one serious break-in and several smaller incidents, costing over £1,500.

4. The Friday morning Café in the Club Room has been running for over six years now and continues to be a popular meeting place. It is run by trustees and volunteers from the community on a rota basis.

5. Fund-raising. In a new venture for the Association, the Manager organised a successful Quiz Night in November, raising £400 towards our funds. More events are planned.

Financial Results

The Association depends on a grant from the Parish Council to supplement shortfall of income over expenditure. The grant for this financial year was £26,000. This included £6,000 towards capital and running costs of the children's play area. Surplus of income over expenditure this year was £2,385. Income from halls has increased significantly, due to both successful promotion by the Manager and the higher standard of the facilities since refurbishment. This increase was somewhat offset by increases in the cost of utilities and insurance, but it is still encouraging.

Judith Bridges, Chairman.

WANTED
COMMUNITY SPIRITED PERSON
TO WORK AS A VILLAGE ORDERLY
IN LONG ASHTON AND LEIGH WOODS
FOR APPROXIMATELY 8 HOURS PER WEEK
Rate £7.05 per hour

**Duties include picking up litter, general tidying,
clearing litter bins, footpath clearing and handyman type
duties when needed.**

**For further information, application forms etc.
please contact the Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council
mornings 01275 393551**

All Saints Church
Long Ashton
Community Concert held at
All Saints Church

Northleaze Primary School
(Pupils - Past and Present)

26th June 2010 at 6.30 pm

All proceeds in aid of Bell Restoration Fund

Tickets £5.00 Adults : £2.50 under 18's
from Northleaze School and Church Office (393109)