

LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2008

MARCH, APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2008

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, 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
July, August, September and October is

midday 1st June 2008

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Cover photo - The British Legion Garden.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER FEBRUARY 2008

The proposed Bristol Urban Extension will inevitably impact heavily upon the village of Long Ashton. The intended number of new houses involved has been confirmed as 9,000. Believe it or not there was a possibility that the number could increase! Whilst stating that we consider this volume as unacceptable, we seek to influence the siting of any new housing so as to retain areas that we value, and maintain a green corridor to preserve the separation and character of our village. More details from Mary Uppington our Planning Chairman.

For some time now funds have been set aside to facilitate plans to reduce speed through the village, the implementation of which has been somewhat delayed by North Somerset Council. I am informed that we should be able to proceed sometime in April, I hope!

School places for residents of Long Ashton is a matter of great concern, not least to the Parish Council, and one that was expressed to North Somerset before the new school was built and the old school sold. Whilst planning for schools numbers may not be easy, it seemed obvious that 350 new houses, in prospect at the time, might indicate an increase in children requiring places in Long Ashton. The lack of places for residents of Long Ashton is unacceptable. This Council will do its very best to ensure that adequate provision is made for the future.

We are all aware that North Somerset has had to look carefully at their budget in order to make savings. I am pleased to report that the youth provision has not been cut. There are a number of people whose reports and efforts may well have influenced that decision. They know who they are, and I would like to offer them my thanks.

We await a decision regarding our library and the mobile library. Submission has been made to the scrutiny panel and the indications are hopeful.

The flooding problem is another issue that your Council has taken up with North Somerset. Whilst the rainfall has been particularly high there are clearly serious drainage problems as a direct result of new building in the village, which impacts further down the line with blocked drains and further flooding. We have asked North Somerset to ensure that urgent action is taken to resolve these problems.

I am pleased to welcome two additions to our local police force. P.C. Trevor Byford and P.C.S.O. Laura Wheeler are joined by P.C. Matt Christie and P.C.S.O. Laura Richards. Serious efforts are being made to reduce the impact of those few sad individuals who are spoiling our amenities, and damaging property, in the village.

Please report any, and all, incidents on 0845 456700.

Charles Cave, Chairman, Long Ashton Parish Council.

LONG ASHTON GOOD COMPANIONS

This is a weekly meeting of the older ladies of the village who for about an hour and a half socialise and take part in sedentary activities such as bingo, quizzes and beetle drives and are entertained by singers and instrumentalists or speakers on various topics.

During 2007 members heard talks on the Experiences of an Evacuee, a Holiday in Antarctica, and Secret World when an owl accompanied the speaker. Two talks were about charities which help the Third World population - GAFSIP - Avon Fire Service's work in the Gambia when members were moved to make a collection to help with transport costs of the goods to Africa. Another talk about "Feed the Children" inspired members to buy items such as toiletries, candles, cutlery, mugs, plates, pens, crayons and more to fill shoe boxes to send to those in need of such basics. At the moment there are 14 boxes awaiting collection by the charity. Knitted jumpers are also required and again members rose to the challenge and provided about a dozen garments. This is ongoing with several members knitting at their leisure.

Coach outings are arranged periodically and last year trips were taken to Minehead and Weymouth. There was also an interesting tour around Avonmouth Docks and just before Christmas a visit to a Garden Centre in the Midlands.

Outings for lunch were arranged, two in the village, to Northleaze School and the Bird in Hand and others further afield to Temple Cloud, Chew Valley Lake and Weston College.

The club has been in existence in the village for 53 years, at one time for men and women, but now only ladies appear to want to attend. Some members who have difficulty walking to the hall are transported by a devoted and much appreciated group of drivers. Currently another two people could be included in this group.

Meetings take place on Wednesday afternoons from 2.15 - 4.00 pm in the Jubilee Pavilion behind the Village Hall, Keedwell Hill, and new members would be most welcome. New residents of the village who would like to make new friends are especially welcome.

Telephone Jean Pullin 393617 for more information.

LONG ASHTON LIBRARY

North Somerset Council

Lovelinch Gardens, Long Ashton, BS41 9AH.

Tel: 01275 392358

E-mail: longashton.library@n.somerset.gov.uk



Welcome Kirsten

We are delighted to announce the appointment of a new member of staff and would like to welcome Kirsten to Long Ashton Library.

Streets and Open Spaces

Paul Smart, Senior Area Officer for Central area will be available every first Thursday of the month at the library. Paul represents the Streets & Open Spaces dept at North Somerset Council, and as part of their continued improvement to services and particularly accessibility, Paul will be at the library from 10am - 1pm as a single point of contact for the main service areas covered of Waste Management (refuse, recycling, green waste, street cleansing, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles), Highways Management (maintenance of public highways, roads, footpaths, street lighting, street furniture) & Environmental Management (public open spaces, highway verges).

Art Display

The Long Ashton Art Club had an exhibition in the library during January and February. The display brought many visitors into the library and included a wide range of techniques, with something to appeal to all. Please enquire at the library if you are interested in putting on your own display.

Renewing books and other items

This can be done at any time by ringing 0845 002 0777, or on-line at www.librarieswest.org.uk. you will need your borrower number (beneath the barcode on your library card) and PIN.

Opening Times

Tues and Thurs	10 - 1 and 2.30 - 5.30
Fri	10 - 1
Sat	9.30 - 12.30

Jackie and Kirsten

North Somerset Council's
**Streets and Open Spaces
Area Officer**

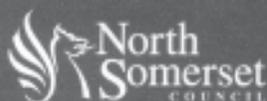
Will be at:
LONG ASHTON LIBRARY
Lovelinch Gardens

10.00 – 1.00pm
Thursday 6th March 2008

To take details of any issues relating to Long Ashton's public streets and open spaces you may have noticed around the town and which require attention.

The next visits will be on the first Thursdays of each month

North Somerset
council connect



If you have any questions in advance

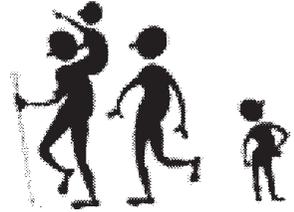
Tel: 01934-888802

streetsandopenspaces@n-somerset.gov.uk

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

FOOTPATH WALKS

Another footpath leaflet is now on sale in LONGASHTON LIBRARY.



This time the walk is through the two deer parks in Ashton Court and it starts, and ends, in the new car park in Ashton Road - the entrance gates are just before The Dovecote Pub.

For newcomers to the village the walk is a nice introduction to some beautiful parkland. There is no charge for admission and parking is free. The walk takes me about an hour and a half - plus time spent in the café.

Although vehicles are no longer allowed to enter Ashton Court through the gates at Church Lodge, cyclists and walkers are still permitted there. Additional information has therefore been included for those walking to Ashton Court from the village and for bus travellers using the bus stops by The Angel Inn.

On the reverse side of the leaflet are some very brief notes about the many people - including Jarrit Smith and his descendants - who have owned or occupied Ashton Court during the last 720 years.

The leaflet costs 30p and all proceeds go towards improving local walks and to the local library for the purchase of maps and books of local interest.

Recent additions are:

The Inn Thing - Pubs walks in Nailsea;
Walks Near Wells;
The Cotswold Way.

Tony Hibbitt.

NO SMOKING DAY 2008

TAKE the Great No Smoking Day Challenge and kick the habit for good.

That is the message from health chiefs at North Somerset Primary Care Trust who are urging smokers to ditch the fags for a week as part of the national campaign which kicks off on March 12.

Now in its 25th year, No Smoking Day is even bigger in 2008 and is asking smokers to pledge to quit for a week, instead of its normal day.

And they are four times more likely to succeed with the help of the Support to Stop Service and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT).

The service is run by North Somerset Primary Care Trust and advisors can offer help to anyone who wants to kick the habit.

The team runs one to one sessions, groups, drop-ins and can give advice on NRT, including patches and gum, which is available at low cost to help beat the cravings.

PCT director of public health and health improvement Dr. Max Kammerling said: "No Smoking Day is a fantastic opportunity to stop smoking, even if it's just for the week or the day.

And this year they are offering more help than ever with support packs, a text encouragement service and even a chance to get your friends and family to sponsor you to go smokefree.

By stopping, even for the week or the day, you will see you can do it, and maybe even become smokefree for good and the North Somerset Stop Smoking Service is here to help you every step of the way.

The improvement to your health, and that of those who live with you, will be fantastic, and you'll save yourself lots of money too."

For further information contact the trained Support to Stop staff on 01275 546743 or email sts@nsomerset-pct-nhs.uk or for details of No Smoking Day, or to register for a support pack or text alerts, log on to

www.nosmokingday.org.uk

Loretta Ingram, Health Improvement Development Manager, North Somerset PCT.

CAR PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

This problem is becoming endemic throughout the whole village, side streets included.



Do drivers realise that not only is this illegal but that they are causing possible harm and certainly great inconvenience to the disabled members of the community?

Riders of mobility scooters, which are meant to be used on pavements, are having to move into the road - in the path of vehicles (often speeding) - in order to pass the parked cars. This also applies to mothers with pushchairs and who may have a young child walking by their side.

A blind lady has complained about the difficulties she has had, actually walking into these cars and whilst she has so far only sustained bruises, is very fearful of coming to greater harm.

The police are aware of the problem and have been cautioning drivers but will in future be cracking down and taking formal action. Be warned - your thoughtlessness could cause a loss of life or penalties for you.

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

Come and give the village a tidy up!
Look for posters nearer April





RESULTS OF SURVEY

It has taken hours of work to collate all the replies, but the results can now be seen on www.longashton.org.uk/ppabout. This is an excellent database and the results are

extremely easy to read; the comments that were made by many residents are also fascinating to see and again easy to follow because of the tag-words. Well done to the dedicated group who have put in many, many hours on this. In all, 1256 replies were received as well as 385 young people's responses to their questionnaire. This is a truly comprehensive snapshot of the views of the village.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

We were therefore able to make a submission on the North Somerset Core Strategy, pointing out not only that 99.4% want to keep the green belt round the village and a similar proportion want to stay separate from Bristol; but also we were able to point to the facilities wanted here in the future. We included a number of the comments that had been made by residents. You can see the submission on the Parish Council website.

The results of the questionnaire have also been of use to show support for more sports coaching for young people.

ACTION PLAN

We are now working on drawing together the recommendations and Action Plan. This is a mammoth task so please bear with us if it seems to be taking a long time. We are thinking that a full summary should be distributed to every home, but this will depend upon having enough volunteers to deliver it. If you could help, please contact Mac Jordan on the website above. We are applying for a grant for a first project to realise some of the ideas from the survey.

CHANGE IN COMMITTEE

I stood down as chairman in September; after 2 years at the helm, it was high time for new leadership. Mac Jordan is now the Chairman and I am sure her enthusiasm will take the Plan onto the next stage. Thanks to all the committee who have given me such support to get the Plan thus far and also to all of you who have helped in any way and most importantly, replied to the questionnaire.

Sheila Hardingham.



Long Ashton Community Association is pleased to announce that work to refurbish the main kitchen in the Village Hall will be commencing at the beginning of April. Limited facilities for light refreshments will be available in the Searle Room during the period of the work, which is due for completion in early May.

Refurbishment work to the Main Hall, Searle Room, Keeds Hall and the Changing Rooms will take place during the school summer holidays to minimise disruption to users.

The Club Room and Pavilion will be available for hire as usual.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this period, but hope that you will bear with us and look forward to the improved facilities in September.



PART-TIME MANAGER
Long Ashton Community Centre
16-20 hours per week flexible

To undertake various management tasks and ensure the smooth running of the local Community Centre. Management and IT skills are desirable and an ability to work independently.

For further information contact the Secretary,
Long Ashton Community Association.

Tel: 01275 392102

E-mail: lacommunityassociation@yahoo.co.uk



WESTLEAZE W.I.

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

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| March 5th | LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN
ANCIENT ROME - Gary Gowan
Competition: A picture of a Roman Artefact. |
| April 2nd | BIRTHDAY MEETING - CHINESE COOKERY
- Ann Pring
Competition: A piece of China. |
| May 7th | Resolutions followed by
GAFSIP (Avon Firefighters Gambia Charity)
- David Hutchings
Competition: Safety tip in the home. |
| June 4th | VISIT TO DUNDRY FARM AND
PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER. |

**LONG ASHTON W.I. have voted not to renew their association with the
Womens' Institute and have decided instead to form a new ladies club.**

LAILA

(LONG ASHTON INDEPENDENT LADIES ASSOCIATION)

will meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.15pm

- | | |
|------------|---|
| March 19th | SOCIAL - to discuss future plans.
Wine and Cheese. |
| April 16th | ST. PETER'S HOSPICE SHOP.
Sylvia Leithgoe. |
| May 21st | RNLI.
Alison Soars. |
| June 18th | To be decided by members. |

WESTLEAZE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Contrary to fears expressed last year, members have come forward to fill the officer vacancies and the Institute is again thriving and ready to expand.

A varied programme has been arranged for 2008 and visitors, young and not so young, will be warmly welcomed to any meeting. This applies especially to new residents to the village.

Meetings are held in Church House on the first Wednesday of the month beginning at 7.30 pm. For further details telephone Jean 393617 or Pam 393567.

WESTLEAZE W.I. COFFEE MORNING

To be held at Keedwell Church
from 10.30am - noon on Saturday 8th March
Entry £1 to include coffee and a homemade cake

Preserves • Cakes • Books • CDs • Videos • Plants • White Elephant Stalls
will offer a good variety of items to purchase

We look forward to seeing you there.

WANTED Community Spirited Person to work as a *Gardener/Handyman*

for approximately 8 hours per week
during the summer (less in winter)

We suggest these are worked Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon
Gardening at Cemetery and handyman type duties when needed.

For further information, application forms and rates of pay please contact
The Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council
during mornings on 01275 393551

LEIGH WOODS CORNER

As I write this column towards the end of January, the winds are howling and the rains are lashing. Snow promised for Friday! Not really a surprise as we are in the middle of winter, though to listen to the “commentariat” you would think that we were being cheated of wall to wall sunshine and temperatures in the mid 80’s. Admittedly, up here on the hill the risk of flooding is considerably less than elsewhere in this neck of the woods.

Bracken Hill (the site of the University’s former botanical gardens) is once again occupying our time and attention. Kingerlee Homes of Oxford has purchased the site from Sunrise Developments and intends to construct a small number of new dwellings in addition to refurbishing existing property on the site. It also has plans to restore and respect the garden areas mindful of the conservation and historical background.

There was an exhibition in the church vestry in early December, attended by many residents, and currently the planning brief is doing the rounds to interested parties before the formal planning application goes in to North Somerset Council. The latest estimate is for this to be around the end of February.

Our next most important topic for focus this year is the council’s core strategy document, which highlights “issues and options for consultation”. From what we can make out, there is the possibility of 9,000 new houses in the Ashton Vale area. For the “hill folk” we shall need to know the implications for road traffic on the A369 and around Ashton Gate plus demands on infrastructure generally. We have the Deputy Director of Development and Policy coming to talk to us at Burwalls on the evening of Tuesday 13th May. ALL are welcome.

Another area of focus - and perhaps of interest in our wider community - is the operation of Neighbourhood Watch. To enable the subject to be aired and have questions answered by the experts, we are holding a forum for Leigh Woods residents on April 1st. We are told that the best security is neighbour keeping an eye out on his/her neighbours so we are hoping to have some practical guidance on how to do this - without turning us all into Hyacinth Bouquets.

On a more down to earth subject, we are working with our local councillor to tackle the problems of being an overspill car park for Clifton Village - where the wardens and tow-away trucks reign supreme - as well as for visitors to the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

The state of our side roads continues to cause concern as they crumble away to the edges and sometimes in the middle. The footpaths are no longer swept. Our gullies have not been emptied for ages and many are blocked to the brim with dead leaves and gravel. Apparently the Council employs a contractor for this work who uses just one vehicle to serve the whole of North Somerset. Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction.

But before I become fingered as a grumpy old man, I have to admit that other parts of this country have suffered far worse from bad drainage in recent months. We are very fortunate to live in such a delightful spot.

Mike Burmester
Leigh Woods Society

WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

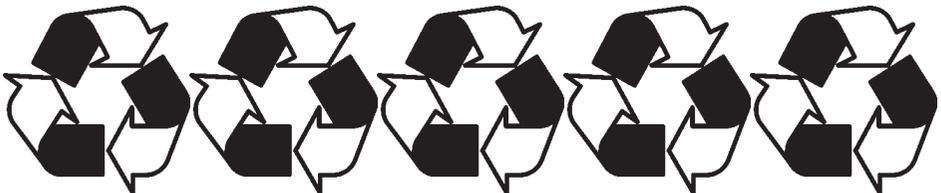
*At present there appears to be confusion
about the collection dates of green bags and boxes.*

Those with internet facilities can determine which commodity is collected when by logging on to www.n-somerset.gov.uk/waste, clicking on environment and following the links. Finally enter your post code and the correct date for each service will be revealed.

Alternatively contact Streets and Open Spaces on 01934 888802.

North Somerset Council have given assurance that calendars showing recycling and general waste collection dates will be delivered to every household in March

In future there should be no excuse for boxes and bags being put out wrongly and causing obstruction on pavements for long periods.



www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Parish Council Website News

The Parish Council and Parish Plan responses to the North Somerset Core Strategy proposals for 9,000 homes can be seen on the website. To stay in touch with developments, you can ask for updates to be emailed to you, you can make this request specific to individual pages on the website. We did have some teething problems with email alerts, but they are working well now, so do try it!

Let us know what you would like on the website.

www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

LONG ASHTON BOWLS CLUB

Long Ashton Bowls Club start their outdoor summer season in April. We meet in the Jubilee Pavilion of the Community Centre, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton.

Anyone interested in joining our club would be most welcome to come to our pre-season Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th April between 10.00 am and 12 noon when you can find out about our playing and social activities.

Alan Lewis, tel. no. 01275 462030, would also be very happy to give you any further information.

Janet Lock, Public Relations Officer. Tel No. 01275 393484



LONG ASHTON TENNIS CLUB

2008 SUMMER SEASON

Starts Tuesday April 1st
at the Community Centre Courts, Keedwell Hill

New members welcomed - no play-in necessary to join this friendly village club catering for all age groups.

Come and enjoy tennis in a pleasant setting and make new friends.



Adult (age 16 and above) playing sessions
on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

Various coaching groups for children are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays currently and adult coaching can be arranged if there is sufficient demand.

*Facilities include two floodlit courts
and a new pavilion with toilets/changing rooms
(courtesy of LAMPRO)*

which will be officially opened on Saturday April 26th at 3pm

For details of time of winter and summer adult/junior sessions
and coaching groups and subscriptions,
please contact Mike Preston on 393825.



FOOTPATH WALKS

SUNDAYS

March 2nd

April 6th

May 4th

June 1st

Meet at Humberts at 2.30 pm

LONG ASHTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This Winter we have had some very interesting speakers to our meetings. In November Chris Biggs spoke on changes to Bristol in the recent past and in December Pat Hase detailed a family's holiday in Weston-super-Mare in 1836. Francis Greenace the former Curator of Bristol Art Gallery showed some fascinating slides of paintings depicting scenes from Nightingale Valley and the Avon Gorge at our meeting on the 3rd January.

We continue our programme until April, The last two meetings being 6th March when Eunice Elsbury will speak on "Nan's Attic" and the 3rd April when we welcome a return visit from Anton Bantock speaking on "The Later Smyths".

As usual we meet in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors are most welcome for which we make a nominal charge of £1 per head.

Roy Pullin (393617)



Avon Wildlife Trust

Long Ashton Group

Thursday 20th March

Yvonne Cox - "Hedgehogs"
7.30pm Royal British Legion

Thursday 17th April

Philip Mugridge - Wildlife of East Africa
7.30pm Royal British Legion

Joy Williams 392690



PLANNING

The application to demolish Bowman' Lodge and build instead one and two bedroom flats was eventually brought before the North Somerset Central Area Planning Committee in November.

It was most pleasing that a local resident attended the meeting and spoke, very strongly, against the proposal. The points put forward no doubt helped the Committee in deciding to refuse the application because they considered - "its scale, design and character will be out of keeping with the locality and will harm the character and appearance of the Conservation Area". This was a welcome result and it is to be hoped that no further application will be made.

A public meeting in November, about the extensive development of 9,000 dwellings in North Somerset to the South West of Bristol, was well attended. Many interesting points were put forward and a number of questions asked.

The Parish Council has responded to the latest information made available in the Core Strategy. 9,000 homes in this area of North Somerset is considered to be excessive and unreasonable. The suggestion to establish a new town, to accommodate the proposals, appears to have been rejected so it seems that additions will have to be made to existing village settlements and this will involve the loss of some Green Belt land.

It has been emphasised that Long Ashton does not, under any circumstances, wish to become part of Bristol and the boundary should not be changed. Furthermore, Ashton Court Estate and the Green Belt, which lies between the A370 and the B3128, must be preserved so that Long Ashton can keep its identity as a village and ensure green fields remain in this position.

Specific sites for development have not yet been identified to us but Long Ashton may well be expected to take some additional dwellings.

All these plans are, unfortunately, being forced upon the area by the Government. There will certainly be many difficult decisions to be made in the future.

Mary Uppington - Chairman, Planning Committee.

DIABETES AWARENESS

On the evening of 27th November the Patient Participation Group (PPG) together with Long Ashton Surgery held a very successful “Diabetes Awareness” meeting in the Jubilee Pavilion.

Dr. Mark O’Connor began by illustrating the anatomy of the body and the organs involved in the problem of diabetes. He then explained the ways in which the condition could be managed and hopefully prevented.

Practice Nurse Mo Atkins followed with advice for a healthy diet, which does not mean giving up enjoyable food but to eat in moderation and substitute where possible, for example, creme fraiche instead of cream, also to eat three meals daily at regular intervals. The proportions on a plate should be 2/5 potatoes or rice or pasta. 2/5 vegetables and 1/5 lean meat or fish. Thirty minutes exercise each day is also beneficial and housework and gardening can be counted as part of that exercise.

Roger Strickland from Nailsea and Backwell Diabetes Awareness Group outlined the setting up of that group and gave information of speakers who had given them advice and of the group’s activities.

The PPG Chairman, John Reynolds, thanked all the speakers and said that he would liaise with Nailsea Group if anyone wished to set up a Long Ashton Diabetes Awareness Group. He can be contacted by telephone 392292 for further information.

The intention is to hold another meeting possibly in May on the subjects of Prostate and/or Breast Cancer. Watch out for the posters with details.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Thanks to Councillor Harry Williams for planting the Primrose, Heathers, Red Valerian, Ox Eye Daisy, Greater Knapweed and Mallow near the Long Ashton sign at the Cambridge Batch end of the village. These were presented to the Parish Council who were the North Somerset District winners of the CPRE Village of the Year.

The budget has been agreed and a precept of £125,000 made to the District Council for the 2008/09 financial year. This includes:

Grants	£11,774
Youth Provision (LA)	7,500
Nailsea Community Transport	600
NS CAB	50
St Johns Ambulance, Nailsea	30
NW Local set up grants - various	94
Drug Misuse	100
MS Therapy Centre	50
Victim Support	100
Nailsea Drop In Centre	50
Implementation of PP ideas	3,000
Other / Contingency	200

Mr. Breakey, of Wales and West utilities, spoke with Councillors as they hope to start replacing the mains gas pipe, throughout the village starting in May. If you use gas there may be further work between the road and your house. Look for further information nearer the time.

From May 2006 the Parish Council has been talking to North Somerset, the Police, Local Action Team (LAT) and manufacturers about vehicle activated Driver Feedback Speed Signs. As Councillors were concerned about speeding a sum of money was put into earmarked reserves and this has been carried over accounting years, even though this is really the responsibility of North Somerset Council. Since the start of this project the rules have changed, North Somerset has had to be involved and the Local Action Team are taking the matter forward.

Mrs. M. Addis, Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council, 01275 393551
45 Long Ashton Road, Bristol, BS41 9HW
clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

USE IT OR LOSE IT



There are few sights sadder than a boarded up building; doors gripped firmly shut with a heavy metal padlock and a “closed down” sign under layers of graffiti. It’s

even worse when you know that the Legion’s lion once roared on the sign above the door. Clubs do not close overnight, yet people are still shocked when a club announces it’s headed for shutdown. It’s tempting to blame the Club Committee, the Secretary, Head Office, or even the Government when you hear the bad news, but perhaps asking yourself a couple of questions could offer some answers:

When did I last visit my club?

Think very carefully. Try to remember the last time you walked into your Legion club. If you’re struggling to recall whether your last trip was this month, or even this year, then ask yourself whether the club will even be there next time you walk by.

Are the right people in charge?

Almost 700 Legion clubs are run by local committees. Your club is only as good as its Management Committee, and the Management Committee is only as good as the members who put it there.

The committee is chosen at the annual AGM, and if you didn’t attend yours, you missed out on a chance to vote. And if you did vote, did you choose the right

people for the right reasons? Just because one candidate may be popular doesn’t mean they’re the best person for the job. How about offering your services? Could you help with bookkeeping, entertainment or publicity?

How can we get more people through the club doors?

The easiest way to boost numbers is for individual members to spread the word. Start with friends and family; ask them to join you on a night out at the Legion in a bid to get them to sign up. Then, if they invite their friends too, you’ll soon find your clubhouse is thriving. It is your club and your responsibility.

***Use it, support it, promote it
... or lose it!***

LONG ASHTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB



Dear Resident,

There are many varied activities to be enjoyed and made use of including:

- Snooker with 3 good tables in their own newly refurbished room - with players who compete nationally
- Skittles - with 6 league teams using it as their home alley
- Cribbage - with 2 league teams
- Darts
- Friday Bingo and weekly tote
- Live entertainment every Saturday night
- The Norman Pearce Room - available for hire for private functions

So, why not come along and see for yourself. If you would like to join the club, (you do not have to be an ex-serviceman or woman) then please call in or ask any existing member, they'll be pleased to help you.

This club has continued to prosper, and today offers a good variety of "low" club priced beers, lagers, wines and spirits.

Visit our website:

www.longashtonbritishlegion.org.uk

Dave Addis, 45 Long Ashton Road. Tel: 01275 393551

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Long Ashton Royal British Legion
8.00 for 8.30pm on first Sunday each month

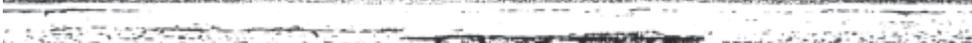
You don't have to be a member to join us. £8 per team of four includes nibbles.

Entry forms can be collected from the Legion
and are to be returned by the Tuesday prior to the Quiz to;

Dave Addis, 45 Long Ashton Road, Tel: 01275 393551



The National Memorial Arboretum



Long Ashton Royal British Legion Branch

Day Coach Trip
Wednesday 26th March 2008

Tickets £15 each from
Club Steward or Secretary
Dave Addis 393551 by 10th March



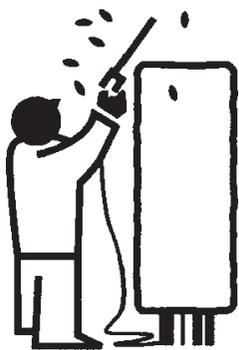
USE of THE TODDLER'S PLAYAREA at KEEDWELL HILL

Will users of the young children's railed play area at the Recreation Ground please ensure that the gate into it is closed at all times and most especially when leaving.

We all know of the dangers of toxicara to the liver and eyes of children caused by dog's faeces so it is essential that dogs are not allowed access into this play area.

Long Ashton Community Association.





OVERGROWING HEDGES

Will all residents please look at their hedges which abut pavements and roads and imagine two tall people walking side by side?

Can they?

Often these hedges can cause real difficulties for pedestrians. Think about the comment from a blind lady, her dog is two foot high and walks under the branches, she is six foot and they hit her straight in the face.

Please cut them back.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held on

Monday 21st April 2008

at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

All residents are welcome to attend

Look for agenda on the noticeboards closer to date

SWANSEA BALLET RUSSE

On Saturday 19th April there will be 2 performances of the ballet La Fille Mal Gardee at Backwell School.

This Russian Ballet Company based in Swansea will be giving special performances which will include 40 children from various dancing schools in and around Bristol.



For more information look at web site www.balletrusse.com.

