

LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2010

MARCH, APRIL, MAY & JUNE 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
July, August, September and October is

midday 1st June 2010

© Editorial Group

Cover photo - The Parish Council was pleased to be Re-accredited as a Quality Council, as at 15 January 2010 one of 693 throughout the country.

The photo shows Councillor Charles Cave, Chairman of the Parish Council being awarded the certificate by Councillor Tony Crouch, Chairman of Avon Local Councils Association.

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

The very sad news of the sudden death of Nick Shopland the Headmaster of Birdwell School has come as a great shock to us all in the village and our heartfelt condolences go to his family. The teachers and pupils will in due course pick themselves up and go forward with the challenges that the welcome expansion of the school will present.

It is largely due to the pressure of the local community that this expansion is now in prospect. The Parish Council have actively supported the School Crisis Group in their efforts by lobbying the North Somerset Executive and more recently discussing with officers the suitability of land owned by the Parish Council for the expansion.

North Somerset has finally decided that the A370 B3128 junction realignment will be made permanent. I believe that the decision is wrong, however we cannot win all our battles. We have won some alterations to the original plan. The ingoing lanes of the bypass are to be widened so that buses in particular will not intrude into the outside ingoing lane. We have an undertaking that the new alignment will, as is the case currently, enable one to angle the car such that one can see traffic on the A370 in the wing mirror thereby saving ones neck peering over ones shoulder. It is the misjudgement of speed of vehicles on the A370 that is the problem, and whilst we are pleased to see the speed calming signs we have made it clear that more needs to be done in that regard before the continuing minor shunts are prevented.

I trust that there is no one unaware of the fact that our village is being threatened from all quarters by planning applications for large developments. We have done our best to keep everyone informed. This Council has for the last two years set aside funds to enable us to obtain professional advice when we feel it is appropriate, and we have budgeted to do the same this next year. Planning consultants have been appointed who have already proved their worth.

The Government's Regional Spatial Strategy has stalled further with the sustainability study not expected to be completed until March at the earliest. Any development in the Green belt is dependent on the RSS being approved. I believe that the Government may be reluctant to do this so near a General Election, bearing in mind the substantial cross party opposition to it. North Somerset's draft Core Strategy, whilst acknowledging the possibility of the South West Bristol urban expansion, 9,000 houses, does not include it, which is good news and I believe is due in no small part to the efforts of our Joint Parishes Group. We have been working very hard to influence, mitigate, persuade, cajole and frustrate this prospective development which two years ago was seen as a foregone conclusion.

The Link Road, the red route, is seen by Bristol as the answer to the regeneration of South Bristol and finds favour with North Somerset. We are concerned that it will further add to the congestion of the Cumberland Basin system and Plimsol Bridge.

Chairman's Newsletter continued

It is my belief that the next Government will, given the current national debt, be unable to provide the level of funding required for many years.

The University application is now registered and we all have the opportunity to comment upon it and I encourage you to do so. It is again dependant upon the RSS gaining approval. This application is as big a threat to Long Ashton as Land Trust proposal and of course takes in valuable grade 1 and 2 farming land. It is vital in my view that we retain the ability to grow our own food in this country and we must not lose valuable land such as this to concrete, to do so would be criminal.

The Stadium application continues to give cause for concern. The application is for a commercial enterprise, which includes the proposed new home for Bristol City Football Club and it is that aspect that brings with it the emotional element. The use of the Stadium, if built, will need to be maximised and will include numerous non-sporting events the year round many of which will impact on our village. Fundamentally there is not suitable access for a Stadium of the size proposed, and this will create serious ongoing problems with volumes of traffic and parking issues should it go ahead.

Long Ashton already suffers from parking problems during home matches. The police currently place bollards at the Bristol end of the village in order to prevent a blockage. Those making the proposal make light of it but then they wouldn't they.

It is predicted that the average gate for the proposed stadium will be 23,800, with 80% arriving by car of which 26% will be drivers. This equates to 5,000 vehicles seeking a parking space, and 6,000 with a full gate. The stadium Company are providing 1,000 parking spaces of which approximately 350 will be available for the public. They could provide a further 1,000 spaces but choose not to do so, which clearly demonstrates their callous attitude to the local Community both in Long Ashton and Ashton Vale. We should be grateful for the support that North Somerset Councillors have given us so far.

Many will be aware that a local resident has been jailed for 5½ years for burglary. We must thank the Police for their work in fighting against criminal activity in our village, much of which we are unaware. May I remind you of the number to ring if you see anything suspicious or you suffer from a break in or attempted break in or witness nuisance or unsocial behaviour - **0845 456 7000**

I make no apology for planning matters taking up the bulk of my report, for it is they that take up much of my time currently.

Whilst it is still very cold, as I write, we must all be looking forward to the longer days, already apparent, and warmer temperatures in prospect.

Charles Cave, Chairman, Long Ashton Parish Council.

LONG ASHTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our two final talks in this season's programme take place on 4th March and 1st April.

On 4th March Colin Budge will be talking on "Monasteries & Priors in Somerset and the South West" and on 1st April, Yvonne Bell will be covering "Love & Marriage - Edwardian style".

Yvonne has spoken to us before on Edwardian themes, the last occasion being February 2006 when she spoke on "The Edwardian Home". Colin has not visited us before but he comes highly recommended.

As usual we meet in the Pavilion at 7.30pm. If you have not been to one of our meetings before you will be very welcome. The charge for visitors is just £1 per head.



A plaque to explain the means by which supplies of water were provided to cottages at the top of Providence Lane was funded by Long Ashton Local History Society and is now mounted on the wall almost opposite the entrance to Miners Close.

Roy Pullin (393617)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held on
Monday 19th April 2010
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

All residents are welcome to attend
Look for the agenda on the noticeboards closer to date

The budget has been agreed and a precept of £131,500.00 made to the District Council for the 2010/11 financial year.

For the second year the Parish Council is holding a 'Nominated Best Kept Garden' competition. Any resident can nominate an individual address (but not your own) and all nominations must be sent to the Clerk by 4th July. You can nominate one garden.

POLICE

PACT meeting 24th March 2010 at 7.30 pm at the Royal British Legion.
All welcome - come and give your views.

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

TRANSITION LONG ASHTON

The failure of politicians to reach agreement in the Copenhagen climate talks in December highlights the importance of bottom-up grassroots action to avert climate change. There is still an overwhelming consensus amongst scientists on the dangers of human-caused global warming, despite the recent success of sceptics in publicising a few instances of bad scientific practice. And the clock is ticking towards the end of cheap oil.

Transition is about building a happier sustainable future with a stronger local community, more self-reliant and less dependent on fossil fuels and long distance travel.

Transition Cafe/Market

On Saturday 6th March in the Club Room by the Village Hall, there will be a cafe from 10am - 1pm. Come along for delicious soup, teas, cakes and more, and to find out what's happening in Transition.

We plan to eventually extend that cafe into a monthly Village Market by gradually adding stalls selling food, craft and any other local produce. If you're interested in getting involved, ring Andy Coombe on 392875, and/or come along on the 6th.

Grow It Group

This is the time of year for planting vegetables, and for anyone wanting support with getting started, or building on last year's successes (or failures!). The Grow It Group meets on Tuesday 9th March at 7.30 in the Jubilee Pavilion, and on the second Tuesday of every month. All welcome - for further information, contact Deryl Hibbitt on 392587.

Warm Streets

Grants are still available for cavity wall and loft insulation, to reduce bills and energy use. You can have a free assessment under this government scheme. For more information phone Ian Webb on 392187.

Wassailing

In January, 30 of us celebrated and blessed apple trees in Pear Tree Avenue, with music, cider, poetry, cakes and dancing - on the first day of sunshine after the snows!

Visit our website: www.transitionlongashton.co.uk

Email: transitionla@blueyonder.co.uk



WESTLEAZE W.I.

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

- April 7th Birthday Meeting
FUNNY SIDE OF TOWN CRYING - David Fry
Competition: A handbell.
- May 5th RESOLUTIONS followed by
BRISTOL CHILDREN'S HELP SOCIETY
- Michael Hardwick
Competition: Arrangement of 5 flowers with foliage.
- June 2nd VISIT TO GEORGIAN HOUSE
followed by afternoon tea at Marriott Royal
- July 7th BRISTOL ZOO - Don Packham
Competition: Model of an animal.
-

LAILA

(LONG ASHTON INDEPENDENT LADIES ASSOCIATION)

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

- March 17th AN EGYPTIAN ODYSSEY - David Morgan
- April 21st WALKS - CHRIS HOLLOWAY
- May 19th CHILDREN'S HOSPICE WRAXALL - Louise Turner
- June 16th QUIZ & CHEESE and WINE

***Children's Centre
looking for your ideas
and feedback on local
services!***



North Somerset Council is currently developing a Children's Centre in Long Ashton. This new Sure Start Children's centre is a "one-stop-shop" for children under the age of 5 and their families. Skilled staff will provide support and advice in the following:

health advice • parenting & family support • play sessions
information about childcare
and a place to meet other parents.

For more information please contact

Jane Wells, Assistant Locality Leader, Early Years on 07919 546391 or
Early Birds Neighbourhood Nursery in Long Ashton on 01275 395359
or visit fis@n-somerset.gov.uk

DIGITAL TELEVISION

Unfortunately severe weather conditions on the afternoon of January 13th led to the cancellation of the meeting arranged to explain how we will be affected and what we need to do about the switch over to digital television in late March.

PLEASE NOTE the re-arranged date of
WEDNESDAY 17th MARCH

at 2.30 pm in the Jubilee Pavilion, at the Community Centre when Dildar Singh from the Bristol Care Forum will explain the process and what grants will be available to help those who are eligible.

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to know more about this subject.

Jean Pullin.



PLANNING

Planning applications and proposals from developers are continuing to arrive! The most up-to-date news is as follows:-

The land to the east of Weston Road, Failand where mixed development, including 500 dwellings, is proposed is to be the subject of a public inquiry in March. The applicant has appealed against non-determination by North Somerset although the authority has since published their reasons for refusal. The inquiry is scheduled to commence on Tuesday 9th March and will last for at least six days. It is being held here in Long Ashton in the Pavilion, which is on the Village Hall site, and residents will be able to attend.

North Somerset Council is currently considering the application for a new football stadium at Ashton Vale and is looking particularly at the access and parking arrangements which will have an effect on residents in North Somerset and the Park and Ride site.

The application, made by Land Trust, which includes 9,500 homes in the area is being assessed by North Somerset Officers and will be considered by the relevant committee in the next few months.

The University of Bristol has just submitted their plans for a mixed use development on land south of the railway line and to the east of Wild Country Lane. This includes 1,000 dwellings, employment, recreation, a Primary School and site for a railway station. These plans will be commented on by the Parish Council Planning Committee at the earliest opportunity.

All the above applications are on land which lies within the Green Belt and North Somerset have said they have no plans to alter their Green Belt boundaries and are firmly opposed to the proposed urban extension.

We understand Officers in North Somerset and Bristol are preparing a bid to Government for the construction of the South Bristol Link Road although there is a good deal of opposition to the indicated route.

continued

The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has still not been approved by the Secretary of State so North Somerset decided to produce its own Core Strategy planning document for consultation. This has now been published and is part of the planning strategy for the whole of North Somerset, up to 2026, and sets out the vision for managing change in our area.

The full version of this document can be viewed at the Library or is available on North Somerset website

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corestrategy

Mary Uppington - Chairman, Planning Committee.



As a result of additional drainage works and maintenance to the football pitch at the Community Centre during the summer, playing conditions for Long Ashton Football Club have been greatly improved.

Additional barriers have also been erected by the football club around the periphery of the pitch to help with spectators on match days and to comply with league requirements.

Unfortunately, whilst the drainage of the pitch is now much better, the exceptional rainfall during recent months has resulted in a large volume of water run-off from the hillside above the Recreation Ground flowing across the pitch and channelling down Keeds Lane towards the main road.

The Parish Council has learned that to deal with this run off and to alleviate the problems encountered in Rayens Cross Road, North Somerset Council are aiming to place a grid across the Keeds Lane/Rayens Cross Road junction and install a new pipe beneath the footpath down the lane to join into the drainage system on Weston Road.

LONG ASHTON TENNIS CLUB

**New Summer Season:
starts Saturday April 3rd 2010**

This friendly village club meets at the Community Centre courts at Keedwell Recreation Ground and offers residents of the village and nearby areas the opportunity to enjoy club tennis at reasonable cost in a safe and pleasant environment within easy reach of their own homes. Both Adult and Junior sessions are provided. Junior coaching is provided by an LTA-approved coach.



Thanks to the Community Association and the Parish Council, the courts (both floodlit) have been resurfaced to a high standard last Autumn, this following the provision in 2008 of the excellent new pavilion facilities.

Club Membership: Prospective adult members (16 years and over), of any playing standard, are welcome to come along and try the facilities during club sessions which in Summer (April - September) are on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday evenings and Saturdays afternoons. In Winter (October - March) sessions are on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons. We are also running Open Sessions for adults on Monday morning year-round.

Please contact Mike Preston (392825) or Cliff Bond (392148) for information re. subscriptions, children's coaching, etc., or for other details go to:

www.longashtontennis.co.uk

ANY OFFERS?

My Grandmother was Elizabeth Jane Offer, or at least she said she was when she married my Grandfather, Samuel Henry Dangerfield in Long Ashton Church on 30th August 1902. But I don't think that was her real name. I can't find a birth certificate for her, and no father's name is quoted on the marriage certificate.

There *was* a family of Offers living in Long Ashton at the time, and on the night of the 1901 census, my grandfather was staying at Clerkencombe Lodge on the Long Ashton Estate, with Mary Offer, widow of Charles Offer, together with Mary's son Edward and Jennie Davis, a visitor.

I checked back through the censuses, and found in 1881 Charles and Mary Ann Offer with a daughter Eliza Jane, a son Edward and Elizabeth J. Davis, aged 12, a boarder. In 1881, Charles and Mary Ann, living at Providence with their son Henry, daughter Eliza Jane, son Edward and Elizabeth J. Davis, a boarder.

Gran always said she was found in a shoe box on the steps of Long Ashton Church, and I am wondering if this Elizabeth J. Davis / Jennie Davis is Elizabeth Jane Offer - my Grandfather always called her Jennie. Perhaps she was a foundling and these good people took her in.

Perhaps she didn't know her name was Davis. I've tried the records of Long Ashton School, but they don't survive for the time she would have been a pupil there. I've tried the baptism records for the Church and Somerset Record Office for Birth Certificates for either name, all to no avail.

Does anyone know anything about the Offers? Are there any descendants living locally or anyone who remembers hearing about them?

Any light anyone can shed on this would be much appreciated.

Christine Byrne

16 Bishops Court, Knoll Hill, Sneyd Park, Bristol BS9 1NS

Tel: 0117 962 6521

e-mail: chris.bryne@christine-44.plus.com

HANDS OFF LONG ASHTON

We originally started as the Long Ashton section of the Alliance Against the South Bristol Ring Road but then all the development proposals inspired by the Regional Spatial Strategy came along. We decided that we had to campaign against all these proposals which would be so damaging for Long Ashton as well as the ring road, (now called the South Bristol Link).

Looking back over the last year the group has actively recruited members, distributed leaflets, organised a petition to parliament, held public meetings, submitted objections to planning committees, held social events, informed the media, been on TV and, most importantly, the supporters have been active in writing their own letters and emails. We are part of the Save Our Green Spaces umbrella movement which facilitates contacts between the groups such as ours and helped co-ordinate a campaign against the RSS over the entire South West of England. HOLA is now established and has been quoted in several official documents, (one recently transposed our initials to become HALO!). Our existence is acknowledged and our opinions are being heard.

Much has happened during the last year. At the outset we were told that opposition to the RSS was useless, it would all happen irrespective of local opinion. Well, that has changed and North Somerset is now strongly against the urban extensions and says so in the recently issued draft core strategy, which is set to become North Somerset policy. The RSS itself is now in limbo. The government was forced to undertake a review following a legal challenge to another RSS. We hope that the imminence of the general election and the stated strong opposition of both Bristol and North Somerset will see this plan cancelled. This could save the village from the unwanted developments in the green belt.

On the negative side, the proposals for the Bristol Stadium were approved in principle by BCC, although the plans for the access in North Somerset were refused. The story on that is not over (at the time of writing). HOLA are campaigning for a public enquiry in the hope that the flimsy basis for building in the green belt can be exposed. The South Bristol Link looks likely to be approved by the West of England partnership who would then apply to the Department for Transport for funding. Even if the application is made there is still some way to go before the money is provided, which may not happen if there are big spending cuts.

We can never know how much the protests from individuals and the various groups have influenced the decision makers. However, I feel that the councillors who made the decision to refuse the stadium access proposals, contrary to NS officers' recommendations, must have heard the voices being raised in opposition. There is a lot at stake for the village and everyone should feel that they have done as much as they could.

Campaigns take a lot of work and often this is done by just a few. I think the position that HOLA is in now shows that our campaign is worthwhile and can achieve results. So what can you do? First please sign up as a supporter, (email me chair@handsofflongashton.org.uk, I have been given several e-mails that don't work, so if you have signed up and are not getting anything from me you are probably one of those, so email me). Even if you just "spread the word", this can change opinions. Better, respond to the requests to send letters and emails to the decision makers, we know that they are influenced if a large number of people say the same thing. Finally, if you have some time to get more involved please let me know. There are more things we could be doing, but we need more Hands On in Long Ashton, to keep other Hands Off Long Ashton, Think about it, can you do a bit more to save our village?

Rod Sterland, (Chairman of Hands Off Long Ashton).

**Ever want to tell someone what you think about your
Health or Care Services? talk to North Somerset Local
Involvement Network (LINK)**



North Somerset LINK helps the community have a stronger voice in their health & adult social care services.

To find out more about the work of LINK, receive information or give us your comments on services, please contact the LINK support team:

23 High Street, Yatton, BS49 4JD

Tel: 01934 876806

Email: contact@nsomersetlink.co.uk

www.nsomersetlink.co.uk

“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”



Great British Fish and Chip Supper - Friday 21st May 2010

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 21st May 2010 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 80 suppers taking part in England and Wales. In 2010 we want to double that figure and ensure we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says,

“The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives”.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 extn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

“Let The Bells Ring Out”

An appeal leaflet with this title was distributed in Long Ashton in December to raise funds to repair and overhaul the Church Bells at All Saints.

These were installed in 1903 and the frame and fittings need painting and refurbishment. About £27,000 will be required with about £6,000 raised to date so more contributions are urgently needed.

Please respond to the appeal, if your house did not receive a leaflet please contact the Church Office on 01275 393109 (09.00 - 12.30 Mon - Thurs) or email allsaintschurch.la@tiscali.co.uk and one will be delivered.



Thank you.

ACTIVITIES AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 22nd May 10am - 1pm
Long Ashton Community Centre



Long Ashton Community Association will be hosting an Activities and Craft Fair at the Community Centre on the above date. This is an opportunity for all residents to find out about the activities which take place in Long Ashton, from Art classes to Yoga, from pre-school groups through to groups for the retired. We have thirty five regular groups using the Centre and we hope to encourage those who meet elsewhere in Long Ashton to attend too. We also hope to have some demo sessions running and refreshments will be served throughout the morning. If you run an activity, please get in touch about having a table/stall to advertise it.

Alongside this event, there will be a craft fair in the Pavilion where local creatively minded people will have a range of products for sale. If you are interested in having a stall here, then again, please get in touch.

For booking forms for either section of the event or to find out more about which groups will be present, then contact Sarah Leong on tel: 01275 393570 or e-mail: laca@btconnect.com

LONG ASHTON AND LEIGH WOODS DIRECTORY ON-LINE

The on-line version of the Village Directory is now live:

www.villagedirectory.org

Please note that all email addresses on the website are encrypted to avoid you getting extra spam from having an entry on the site.

We would like to keep the website as up to date as possible, but we can't do this without your help. Please use the 'Contact Us' button on the site to let us know of any changes or new entries. Alternatively, email us at saraemail@btinternet.com or phone 392497.

Thank you.

Sara and Patrick Taylor

Changes at Northleaze



Northleaze Church of England Primary School has welcomed a new Headteacher to replace Mr. Jolliffe who has moved to a Bristol school.

Mr. Stephen Davis, who was previously at Kingshill Primary School, Nailsea, joined Northleaze in January and the school are looking forward to many more happy and successful years ahead.

M. Uppington, Chair of Governors.



Avon Wildlife Trust

Long Ashton Group

Thursday 15th April

Mrs. Helen Mugridge

“Churchill, Canada with Polar Bears
and other animals”.

7.30pm Royal British Legion, Long Ashton

*The group has been short of Committee Members for some time
and would welcome any person willing to help.*

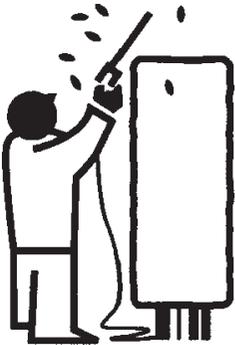
Contact Harry Williams Tel: 392690

An Appeal for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to deliver this Newsletter 3 times a year
for the following roads:

Bramley Copse • Wild Country Lane
Part of Weston Road (Nos 97 - 133 and 100A - 112)
Westward Gardens

Please contact Jean Pullin 393617 or Marilyn Addis 393551
if you are able to help.



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.