

GASBAG

Great Ashby Sentinel, Bugle & Gazette!



An independent publication
by the Great Ashby Community Centre Management Association, delivered by
volunteers

Our Best Asset . . .

Management Plan for Great Ashby Woodlands and District Park.

Issue 30
Summer

A great many residents would agree that the Great Ashby District Park and surrounding woodlands is a beautiful space which we can all visit and enjoy. The Countryside Management Service (CMS), in partnership with North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) will soon be starting work on a new Management Plan for Great Ashby Woodlands and District Park. The new plan will continue previous management work, such



as felling and replanting trees in parts of the mature woodland, maintaining the hedgerows and boundary trees, cutting the meadows in the District Park and ensuring that the access and experience for visitors is of a high standard. The plan will also have a focus on the management of recent tree planting in the district park, including thinning of the plantations and removal of old fencing and tree stakes.

. . . but it's not all good

Despite the planning and hard work that goes into maintaining the woodlands for our enjoyment, there are those who spoil it for everyone else by dropping litter and dumping unwanted items. The issue of dropped and dumped litter is a recurring bugbear to many residents and there are those in our community who take it upon themselves to litter-pick the woods in their own time out of sheer frustration to try and keep the neighbourhood pleasant. Although it's not exclusively children who drop litter, the problems do escalate during school holidays. The Great Ashby Community Council organise litter picks and they never fail to fill up a great many rubbish sacks of litter thrown onto the ground.

Following a recent flytipping prosecution by NHDC, David Scholes, Chief Executive of NHDC said, 'Fly-tipping can be a real problem in our area. It ruins the environment and there are also financial implications for clearing it up which effects the council tax payer. We encourage residents to make sure that their waste is disposed of appropriately and this includes ensuring any contractors they may use for building works or gardening have a waste carrier's licence.

We hope this prosecution sends a clear message that anyone can be found guilty of fly-tipping if they haven't taken steps to ensure their waste is properly disposed of, even if they are using someone else to get rid of it for them.'

If you are aware of fly-tipping in the area, please call Veolia on 0800 3286023. If you witness fly-tipping in progress please call 101. NHDC runs a bulky waste collection service operated by its waste contractors Veolia.

If you'd like to help, the next litter pick on Saturday, 28th June from 10am, meeting in the District Park car park.

Have your say

On Saturday 12th July there will be an opportunity to discover the wildlife of Great Ashby and find out more about future plans for management during a guided walk. Any feedback received can then be taken into account when writing the new plan. For details of the walk, visit www.hertsdirect.org/walksandmore, or turn to page 2.

Centenary Poppy Campaign

The 4th of August 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history – the First World War – with fighting continuing until the 11th of November 1918, Armistice Day. The aim of the campaign is to cover the UK with poppies during the centenary period in commemoration of all those who lost their lives in the First World War. Keen gardeners and Great Ashby Community Councillors Evelyn Goldwater and Rick Richardson wanted to take part as residents of Great Ashby and were given permission by NHDC to sow commemorative poppy seeds. The flowers will appear in July on an area of verge along the top end of Great Ashby Way between Lomond Way and Serpentine Close and it'll be worth keeping an eye out for them.



Great Ashby Park and Woodland Guided Walk - Saturday 12th July 2014

The Countryside Management Service (CMS) works with communities across Hertfordshire to help them care for and enjoy the environment. Join them on Saturday 12th July for a gentle stroll around Great Ashby Woodlands and District Park to find out more about your local woods and green space, the variety of wildlife that lives there and plans for future management.

The ancient woodland of Great Ashby is at least 400 years old and may have been present since the end of the last ice age, 10,000 years ago! The woods are home to a host of distinctive plants and animals with the seasons bringing carpets of bluebells, yellow archangel and the echo of bird song.

In contrast the District Park has large expanses of recently created grassland. Wildflowers such as black knapweed, birds foot trefoil and Oxeye Daisy have rapidly colonised the chalky soils. In turn these wildflowers have attracted a variety of insects and on a warm summers day, butterflies such as Marbled White and Common Blue can be seen and the whole area is buzzing with life.

The walk will be an opportunity to hear about future plans for improvement such as:

- Management of recent tree planting in the District Park, including thinning of the plantations and removal of old fencing and tree stakes
- Cutting the meadows in the District Park and how this will improve wildlife
- Managing the trees in parts of the mature woodlands to ensure future growth and survival
- Maintaining the surrounding hedgerows and boundary trees
- Ensuring that the access, available information and experience for visitors is of a high standard so everyone can enjoy this space.



Everyone is welcome including families and children, however some paths maybe muddy and uneven. The walk will go ahead come rain or shine so wear waterproof clothing, sturdy walking boots and/or sun cream and a hat. bring a drink and a snack.

Also For more information call Zoe Channon (Countryside Management Service) on 01992 556 063 or email zoe.channon@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: Saturday 12th July 2014

Time: 10 -12

Meet: In the District Park, just off Serpentine Close, by the playground next to the car park.

It gets worse . . .

In the last issue of Gasbag, residents expressed their disgust and disappointment at the dog mess left lying around in public places and even in people's gardens. Since then, Gasbag has been contacted by a blind resident who relayed some horror stories of how it affects the blind and those with limited vision. Great Ashby resident Caren Porter says blind people are obviously much more prone to treading in dog excrement which is bad enough but it's much worse when it gets on the end of the white cane. Most blind people have foldable canes which can result in faeces getting all over their hands when they fold it up when sitting on buses or trains or when they reach their destination. Caren doesn't have a guide dog at the moment but says that when blind people are being taught how to work with guide dogs, part of the training is to pick up the dog's poop when out and about. Caren says 'The dogs are trained to go in the gutter but on a busy road they don't, but wherever they go we are taught how to find it using a bag turned inside out in the same way sighted people do and dispose of it properly. If we as blind folk can stop, find and pick up our dog's mess then there really isn't any excuse at all for people who can see not doing the same!'

Pushchair wheels, shoes, particularly children's shoes, their scooters, bikes and other toys are all vulnerable to being affected. A local mum commented, 'If these were human t#@!s left lying around there would rightly be an enormous outcry, but what's the difference? In most cases what goes through a dog's gut is actually much worse!'





An innovative and award winning programme for primary school children is being launched in Great Ashby. Create Club's hands-on art and craft exploration sessions give every child the chance to safely experiment with a wide range of materials, tools and ideas. Local mum of two Suzanne Harvey will be leading the weekly, term-time programme for youngsters every Saturday morning at Great Ashby Community Centre. Suzanne spotted the need for creative activities in the local area after she was unable to find classes for her art-mad, seven year old daughter, Cate.

Suzanne said: 'I am really excited about bringing Create Club to Great Ashby. Our aim is to inspire children's imaginations through our specially designed art and craft activities and products. Creating their own piece of art each week also helps develop a child's thinking and creative skills. Another plus point for parents is that even when we get messy using paints and clay they don't have the worry and stress of cleaning up like they would at home. And parents get some time to themselves, which is a very rare thing indeed!

Create Club provides sessions on weekends, during the school holidays and at after school clubs. We are looking to team up with local schools, so if you think this is something that your school would be interested in please let us know.'

Summer holiday sessions will run on selected dates in July and August. Saturday Create Club will begin in September.

For further information and to request a Create Club session for your school contact Suzanne on 01438 281723 or suzanneharvey@thecreationstation.co.uk



Defibrillator training

At the time of Gasbag going to print, the training to enable people to use the defibrillator, which is situated outside the main entrance to the community centre, is not yet in place. In order not to miss out on the training, please keep a look out on the Great Ashby Community Council Facebook page, Twitter and the noticeboard which is on the wall outside Budgens .

Great Scott!

It worked for Pauline!

Pauline Scott joined Cherie Daniel's Fitness classes at the community centre three and a half years ago. Self employed accountant Pauline found the classes ideal and lost two and a half stones in weight, resulting in dropping two dress sizes. Another health benefit for Pauline was that the exercise helped her to stop smoking as well as reach a healthy weight.

Pauline says, 'Cherie encouraged me to train as an instructor, it was a very hard course but well worth it. Now I really enjoy teaching, we have great fun but work hard at the same time. I teach client's of all ages from 16 up and always encourage them to work at their own pace'.

Pauline has made many new friends since starting at the fitness class and encourages others to come along to see if they like it, 'I do Cardio Blast, Legs, Bums & Tums on Monday nights from 7.30pm - 8.30pm and Exercise to Music & Legs, Bums & Tums on Tuesday nights from 7.45pm - 8.45pm - you can just come along and give it a try'. You can contact Pauline on 07908 969 029, email paulesfitness@outlook.com or visit the Facebook page [paulesfitness](https://www.facebook.com/paulesfitness).



Pauline Scott

Great Men in Great Ashby!

70.3 Iron Man Paul

As Gasbag goes to print Paul Murray will be taking part in the Iron Man 70.3 event in Exmoor on 15th June. His training has been going well with early morning swimming and running, some open water swimming at Stanborough Lakes and long bike rides around Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Paul featured in the winter issue of Gasbag as he began training.

Paul, who is married to Mel and has a young son Aubrey, is taking part in this event to raise funds for the MS Society, which funds research into new treatments for MS and provides assistance to those affected by Multiple Sclerosis in the UK. The charity is very close to Paul's heart as Mel has MS.

Not for the faint-hearted!

Just what will he be doing on 15th June? The '70.3' refers to the total distance in miles (113.0 km) covered in the race, consisting of a 1.2-mile (1.9 km) swim, a 56-mile (90 km) bike ride, and a 13.1-mile (21.1 km) run.

Giving the easy way

Paul has a Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/paul-murray-iron and has an account for people to donate via their mobile phone by texting **LUAP71** and the amount (e.g £2) to **70070**.

Paul is very pleased to have raised over £300 so far. He is trying to raise £500 if possible. Any donations, large or small would be really appreciated, for this great cause.



Paul Murray in training

Mark and his mates on the run *Mark Jolin writes . . .*

My wife Linzi was diagnosed with cancer for the second time in January, at the age of 34 and with two girls aged 3 and 5. Her determination, courage and truly inspirational attitude in dealing and fighting this disease inspired me, her cousin and a few friends to try and do something that raises money for cancer research.

On June 8th we ran the St Albans half marathon, we have been so overwhelmed with the support we have received and the generosity of people in their donations, we have raised a lot of money for Cancer Research.

Linzi has finished her 6 chemotherapy sessions and will now start radiotherapy everyday for 6 weeks, we are halfway treatment and by the end hopefully this will kick it into touch. Even through it all she always has a smile on her face.

Every pound counts in finding a cure for this terrible disease

<http://www.justgiving.com/Mark-Jolin1>



Tay Brandon, Mark Jolin, Jack Wynn, Pete Godden and Liam O'Riordan



Mark with Linzi and girls Sofie, 5 and Hollie, 3

Volunteer for Something Special and help keep our self-funding local RSPCA branch open!

you could . . .

Foster our rescued kittens & puppies

Assist in our Charity Shop & Flag Days

Internet publishing & raising funds

Join our local RSPCA committee

Create advertising ideas

For more info - RSPCA Hertfordshire East Branch
121 Green Lane, Letchworth Herts SG6 1EH
Call 01462 672278 or 01462 484862



Summer ESSENTIALS

This Summer dip into our series on the Essential Jesus



GREAT ASHBY
COMMUNITY CHURCH

This summer the talks at Great Ashby Community Church are all about Jesus. Sue Hardwidge, the minister says, 'Why don't you come and join us as we find out more about Jesus Christ. You might even discover things about him that could change your life.'

The church meets at 10.30 each Sunday morning at Round Diamond School. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to see the week by week programme then visit our website at

www.greatashbycc.org.uk/sunday.html

Or you will sometimes find Sue in Circles Cafe Bar or in the Chaplaincy office nearby if you would like to chat to her.



Margaret Reynolds, Chair of the 50+ club writes,

'We are a club known as the Great Ashby 50+ Friendship Group and meet each Tuesday between 2pm - 4pm at the Great Ashby Community Centre in Hall 2.

The club is a great way to meet your friends each week, meet new people and make new friends. We do a variety of activities and outings and are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

We are always happy to see new faces, so why not come along to see if you'd like to get to know us better and you will be assured of a warm welcome.'



Strawberry Fields - the Great Ashby Children's Centre for families with under 5's



We have an office at the front of Round Diamond School and run some sessions in the community centre.

Monday 10 – 12 **The Little Orchard Baby and Toddler Group** for 0-5s; GA Community Centre; Free

Tuesday 2.00 – 2.45 **Story and Rhyme Time** for 0 – 5s; SF Children's Centre; Free

Wednesday 11.00 – 11.45 **Story and Rhyme Time** for 0 – 5s; SF Children's Centre; Free

Wednesdays 1.00 – 3.00 **New Start** for 0 – 1s; GA Community Centre; Free (Health Visitor clinic last Weds of each month)

Thursday 1.30 – 3.00 **Strawberry Stay and Play** for 0 – 5s; GA Community Centre; £1 per family (£2 out of area)

In addition we host Baby Massage courses, First Aid courses, Midwives Clinics and are running taster sessions called **Tiny Movers** on Thursdays 10 – 11. For more details and to book a place on any of these please contact the centre. Staff can also provide support for breastfeeding.

Phone 01438 350147 email: strawberryfields@spurgeons.org

www.hertschildrenscentres.org.uk/strawberryfields

Inside Circles . . .

. . . a snapshot of some Great Ashby's 'Circles' coffee shop customers

Do you come here often? **Yes.**

What's your favourite drink? **Cappacino frappachino's at Circles, otherwise Long Island ice tea.**

Do you live in Great Ashby or are you a visitor? **I live in Great Ashby.**

What's your idea of a perfect summer's afternoon? **A long walk followed by a refreshing drink, preferably alcoholic.**

If you could invite someone famous to your party, who would it be and why?

Mick Jagger - he could throw some shapes and would tell some great stories.

'Loxie'



Do you come here often? **Yes, every week.**

What is your favourite drink? **Latte at Circles and otherwise, wine.**

Do you live in Great Ashby? **I'm visiting but I used to live here.**

What's your idea of a perfect summers afternoon? **A picnic in the park with my kids and partner while they play and maybe end with a water fight.**

If you could invite someone famous to your party, who would it be and why? **Alan Carr because he would be a great laugh.**



Faye

The W.I. Ladies have Landed!

The W.I has arrived in Great Ashby!! A newly formed Women's Institute, **The Great Gatsby of Great Ashby WI** held its first meeting in January this year. We meet on the first Friday of each month at the community centre at 7:45pm. We'd like to say it's not all jam and Jerusalem but in fact our first speaker was a jam maker!! Vicky Humber, from Humber's homemade preserves gave us a great talk about how she set up her business with demonstrations and jam tasting – what's not to like? We are keeping things varied and have a great line up for the rest of the year, with speakers including D.I. Lancaster from Married to the Job fame, a creative art evening and a Heritage speaker from the University of Hertfordshire giving us a spooky local witchcraft and magic talk at Halloween to name but a few.

Our next meeting is on Friday 4th July at 7:45pm, £3.50 for non members, bring along a friend and maybe make some new ones! A warm welcome awaits you.



Great Ashby WI ladies busy at the meetings in Hall 2 at the Community Centre - you can visit their Facebook page at Great Gatsby of Great Ashby WI.

Council Corner

Defibrillator

You may have noticed the defibrillator cabinet was installed beside the main entrance to the Community Centre in early May. This has been done with the Community Heartbeat Trust who will be helping with some awareness training sessions soon. Please keep an eye on our noticeboard, Facebook and Twitter pages for more information on the training.

Councillor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Councillor up to May 2015. If you'd like to get involved with the local community and help to improve Great Ashby please consider applying for the role. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please email clerk@greatashbycouncil.org.uk for more information.

Community Plan Focus Groups

Over the last couple of months we've held a number of focus groups as part of the research for our Community Plan. These have included both children and parents at Round Diamond, local businesses and the Youth Club. We have a few more planned, but if you are part of a group and meets or works within Great Ashby and would like us to visit you please email clerk@greatashbycouncil.org.uk and we'll see what we can arrange.

Grants for Groups

If you work on a project or group that helps the Community you can approach the Council for a grant, just contact the Clerk for more information.

Picnic Time

In early April three picnic benches were installed in the district park along with two new bins. We're hoping that the weather over the summer will be

good enough for residents and their families to enjoy a picnic in the park. Please do let us know what you think of them and whether we need to get some more.

Litter Pick

The last litter pick resulted in almost twenty bags of rubbish being collected along with the front wing of an old car. Many thanks to everyone who turned up to help on the morning.

Our next litter pick will take place in and around the District Park, off Serpentine Close on Saturday 28th June from 10:00. Please come along and help us keep the area tidy.

Dogs Trust

The Dogs Trust were in Great Ashby at the end of March offering free microchipping for dogs. They chipped a total of nine dogs and checked the chips on many more. If anyone missed them and would like to get their dog chipped you should look at <http://www.chipmydog.org.uk/> where their events are listed along with vets who are taking part in the free chipping.

Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman

For the 2014-15 Civic Year Councillor Neil Williams will continue as the Council Chairman, while Councillor Sue Hardwidge will also continue as our Vice-Chairman.

Monthly Meetings

We hold our meetings on the second Thursday of each month, except August, at 7:30pm in the Community Centre. We have a period of time for questions from the public. Dates and times of all of our meetings are available on the notice board.



How to Contact the Community Council

Email: clerk@greatashbycouncil.org.uk

Post: Great Ashby Community Council, C/O Great Ashby Community Centre, Whitehorse Lane, Great Ashby, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 6NH

Telephone: 07864 026083 **Website:** <http://www.greatashbycouncil.org.uk>

Twitter: @GtAshbyCouncil **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/greatashbycommunitycouncil>

What's On @ the Community Centre

Children and Young People

Little Orchard Baby & Toddler Group
Mon 10.00 - 12.00 pm
01438 350147

New Start Baby Group
Wed 1.00 - 3.00 pm
01438 350147

Strawberry Stay & Play
Thur 1.30 - 3.00 pm
01438 350147

Brownies
greatashbybrownies@gmail.com
Guides
greatashbyguides@gmail.com
Wednesdays

Dinky Dancers
Fri 1.45pm
Sue 01438 831281

Dolly Mixtures
(2 yrs 9mths-4 yrs)
Mon - Fri 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Mon - Tue 12.45 - 2.45pm
Jan/June/Sue 07759 756 497
(at above times)

Rainbows Tues
01438 224095

Angelzdance
Fri 5 - 7pm
Stephen 07909 702 640

Music Train (3 mths - 4yrs)
Tue, Thur & Fri
Hayley 01462 769017

Twins Club
2 - 4pm 1st 2nd & 3rd Mon of month
Carly 07771 640 708

Dance with Suki & Zorro
Street dance under 12's
wed 4.15 - 6.15pm Suki
07970 319 348

Grapes
kids club, age 7-10
Mon 6.30-8.00pm
Dot 07952 323 692

Ballet, Tap &
Disco/Street
Thurs from 4.30pm
Danielle 07866 395 739

Hula Hoop Class
Selected Saturdays 10.30 - 11.30am
Sally 07866 451 715

Sport, health and fitness

Mid Herts Karate
(from 6 yrs up)
Sun 10.30am - 12 noon
Paul 01438 236894

Legs, Bums
& Tums
Mon 7.30 - 8.30pm
Pauline 07908 969 029

Weight Watchers
Mon 5.30 - 6.30 pm
07899 862 321

Pilates Class
Thur 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Sally 07866 451 715

Badminton
Club
Sun 6.00 - 9.00 pm
Gary 01438 236823

Zumba 'n Tone
(½ hour Zumba - ½ hour tone)
Tue 7.45 - 8.45pm
Pauline 07908 969 029

Slimming World
Wed 9.30 - 11.00am
Jan 07902 029 680

Tai Chi
Mon 8.00-9.15pm
Gary - 01438-317738

Alive & Singing Rock Choir
Tues 7.30 - 10pm
Jamie - 07968 698651

W I
1st Fri of month 7.45pm
Sylvia 07967 091 857

Other interests

Great Ashby Community
Council (GACC)
2nd Thur in month 8.00 - 9.30 pm
clerk@greatashbycouncil.org.uk

50+ Friendship Club
Tue 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Margaret 01438 317839

Breathe Easy (British Lung
Foundation)
last Mon of month 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Sue 01438 357319

Contact 01438 365392 or info@greatashbycommunitycentre.org.uk for information on hiring the centre for parties, private functions etc



Unit 2 Whitehorse Lane Great Ashby
Stevenage Herts SG1 6NH
01438 743050

Visit our fully air-conditioned salon,
with a friendly atmosphere,
fantastic coffee & the very best hair &
beauty treatments.

We also offer -

Full range of waxing styles, including sugaring
Free consultation for all your hair & beauty needs

Pauline's Fitness Classes

Great Ashby Community Centre

Monday

Cardio Blast &
Legs, Bums &
Tums 7.30 - 8.00pm



Tuesday

Exercise to music &
Legs, Bums & Tums
7.45pm - 8.45pm



Call 07908 969 029, email paulinesfitness@outlook.com
or visit Facebook page paulinesfitness.