

LIFE IN ASFORDBY PARISH BY ALAN HALL

Although born in Hickling I moved to Asfordby Hill in 1929 at the age of six years. My Dad had been a farm worker, but got a job at Holwell Works and we moved into a house in the 'big square' at Asfordby Hill. I attended the primary school at Asfordby Hill and then the modern boys school in Melton.

I have many happy memories of growing up on the Hill.

When the local hunt met at the home of Lady Cross we were all given iced buns by Routen Brothers. The bread was delivered by Harold Payne who lived next door to Cowman's Yard. On Good Friday we used to go round for hot cross buns. On Friday nights Tommy Norton came around on his horse and cart selling fruit and veg and on Saturday mornings a chap we called 'the Scrambler' came round selling apples. He used to throw some on the grass for the children to collect.

I became a member of the boy scouts with Reverend Simmons the Leader. We had some lovely camps, particularly one I remember at Shanklin on the Isle of Wight.

I started work at Holwell Works and my first day was a day off for Burton Lazars Races. I worked at Holwell for 48 years as an engineer in the fitting shop. I enjoyed those years and made some wonderful friends and have lovely memories.

Does anyone remember the Gun Range and the testing of the guns at Asfordby Valley? The house would shake with the loud 'bangs' and many of the houses had cracks appear as a result.

In the middle of this I joined the RAF where they taught me to fly an aeroplane. During my flying test of 12 hours I was so proud of myself for being sent off "solo" after just 7 hours tuition.

I was sent to New York on the “Queen Mary” and then by train to Toronto. On the journey we went on Rainbow Bridge and saw Niagara Falls. I was next posted to flying school at Assinaboia for 70 hours and then Terrill near Dallas, Texas. Then back home again to Wymeswold to fly DC3’s (Dakotas). I met my wife Joy Baker at Hoby whilst on leave and after being “demobbed” in 1947 went back to Holwell Works to continue working.

We married in 1948 and had 2 daughters and now have 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

We attended the Methodist Chapel at Asfordby Hill which was held in the front room of Mrs Huckerby. Then we moved to a wooden building which stood across from the school just on the corner. In 1959 we had the opening of the new brick building further up the road and the old wooden Chapel was taken and used by St. John’s Ambulance. I spent 42 years as Church Steward and Treasurer looking after the building and gardens with my father. Sadly over the years the congregation dwindled and those that were left were getting too old to keep it going. The building was sold and has been in the process of being turned into a dwelling.

I am now 82 years old and although no quite as active and mobile as I would like I am still able to get around the Parish of Asfordby and have many friends and acquaintances. I am a regular visitor around the different chapels each Sunday and enjoy meeting everyone. To me, the Asfordby Parish will always be home.



It's Your Parish

Written by Mr. John Bullimore, Chairman of Asfordby Parish Council

Is it my hormones? Am I on the change? It must be something because I am being regularly told that I am more irritable than usual. Perhaps it is because I've not been able to get out very much for a couple of months and that for me has been like a prison sentence, and then when I could the May weather was less than special, although the hot weather we are now having in early June has cheered me up, and by the time you read this the longest day will have gone. Luckily though I've a vivid imagination, you have to have when you grow older or so I've found. So while I spent time looking out of my bedroom window I often felt that I could have been looking at a part of the Camargue in the South of France, white horses in the old cricket field, black cows that could so easily be bulls in the Frisby Meadows and swans that, with a real vivid imagination and depending on how much you have drunk, could be flamingoes. On those occasions when the sun shone it all looked just as good, so why not take a walk through the Meadows, and after taking care crossing the railway tracks twice, we see the fishing lakes and left the sailing club water, it would be hard to find anywhere better in such a relatively small area. I know that I've written about this before but for those newcomers to the Parish, go out and find these little gems that cost nothing but make Asfordby, both in winter and summer, somewhere special to put down your roots.

I see that the new channel tunnel rail-link, as provided by the gas board, eventually turned in a westerly direction and hopefully by now long gone, complete with traffic lights and barriers. A job that appears to have been badly needed. Well done by too small a gang but along with you all I'm still glad that it is finished, I hope!

On your way up the village towards Melton and next to the old Church of England Primary School stands the old Headmaster's House. Over the past few years it has had quite a lot of work in the form of extensions and, I might say, all in keeping with the original, with a lot of time and care taken it has all blended together very well. Although what I want to point

out are the two dragons on the end of two of the ridges and a sickle on pieces of slate on the tip of one of the extensions, although this has now been removed since I first did my proof of this article I just wonder what the significance of these are. I have looked in several of my books but haven't found a reference to them. So if you are one of the few walkers in Asfordby, when you go by, stop and have a look. It is a building with a lot of character and, if you know what the significance of the dragons are, please let me know.

Our recently refurbished, at your expense, both inside and out, Parish Field Pavilion is being ruined on the outside by, I suppose what can, as I am in a more generous mood tonight, be described as immature or, at worst, not particularly bright youngsters, one of which our village beat bobby should have already spoken to his parents. A lot of time and money has been spent on it, neither you, who pay for it or those who gave their time going the work, deserve this. So I would like to remind all parents that the Council has a Zero Tolerance Policy on all vandalism that costs you, the council tax payers, money. If it is proven that your child is guilty then a little chat with Melton's Police Inspector will not be enough, we will pursue you, the parents, for the costs in the County Court. So be warned especially those whose children are smashing the seats and benches both at Glendon Close and our Country Park. If anyone sees anyone doing this, stand up and be counted. Report it to the parish clerk or the police. This also goes to anyone who sees those who have been riding motor cycles on the Parish field. This is unfair to those youngsters, and not so young, who wish to use it for its intended purpose. The motor cyclists are generally accompanied by a real imbecile driving a car and doing hand brake turns on the parish hall car park. So if you see anyone doing either of these DON'T APPROACH them yourselves just note the vehicle registration numbers, time and date and again report them, PLEASE. We can't allow such behaviour as this to continue - it is not safe or fair.

I am told that life is so cheap and boring in Asfordby Valley that some of the youngsters latest game is jumping out of the new bus stop, which might or might not, have been positioned in the safest place, in front of passing vehicles. It could, if the timing is just a fraction out, become very

messy down there. So Valley residents, buckets, spades and brushes at the ready.

Whilst I am down the Valley, the new flood scheme has blended in as if it had always been there. It looks good and I am sure that it will be as effective as it looks.

Now for you Hill residents. I know that you rarely seem to get a mention but I can assure you that we are as concerned as much for your wellbeing as anywhere else in the Parish. This months, Old Asfordby, was written by Alan Hall, a Hill resident.

ARCHIBALD HENRY OTTON

Archie was one of those referred to by Byron Cavill in his article about Dwyers Yard and Village characters. Archie was the village boot and shoe repairer and Bryon believed that he was still alive and living in New Zealand, he was, but we have recently received news that Archie sadly died on the 10 May 2005, aged 91 years old. He was born and raised in Newport, South Wales, during the depression and coal strike years and knew what hard work really was. He believed that this had made him the responsible person he was to become. Archie was a member of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps during the second World War and on leaving the army he lived for 12 years in Asfordby before emigrating to New Zealand in 1959. He returned to Melton on several occasions for visits, the last being in 1995.

MONEY DYKES

We have been asked if anyone can tell us why or how this strip of land and footpath got its name. The path goes from the top of Saxelby Road to the gate opposite the Hobby Road. So if anyone out there knows, please let us know.

It's a snip at Asfordby ICT Centre

Improvements to the Asfordby ICT Centre were unveiled on Tuesday 6th June 2006. Head of Library Service, Margaret Bellamy, celebrated the changes with a short ceremony and cutting of a ribbon.

Visitors to the centre can now use the new access ramp and automatic door that has improved the entry to the study centre. Facilities for computer users have also been expanded. The study centre now has two extra flat screen computers, which will enhance the service at busy times.

Opening times are :

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

Friday and Saturday 9-12am

Use of the computers at the ICT Centre is free, please go along and take a look at what is on your doorstep. For young people doing homework there is a member of staff available to help direct study.

If you are interested in learning how to use the Internet, drop in and we can offer you an hour of tuition, free of charge, to get you started.

Perhaps you would like to know more about using computers? If you would be interested in any of the following contact Ruth Pointer or Janet Gilchrist at Melton Library to register your interest. If enough people are interested we will try to arrange some classes. Tel 01664 560161

- Introductory courses
- Spreadsheets
- Desk Top Publishing
- PowerPoint
- Digital photography

Volunteers needed. The Library Service needs some volunteers to help our mobile library driver deliver books to people in the village who are house-bound and can't easily get along to the mobile library when it makes its fortnightly calls in the village. If you could give up a little time to help with this, please contact Janet or Ruth on 01664 560161.



The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council following the launch of the new facilities at the Asfordby ICT Centre

WHEN IS A CHURCH YARD AN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND?

The answer should be NEVER although Asfordby appears to be the exception which is a pity because those who have loved ones buried there do not deserve the worry. We saw the consequences of this last year with the desecration of many of the headstones in the Churchyard. So could we ask those who are responsible for the many youngsters who have recently been seen playing there, to accept their responsibilities and make sure that it doesn't happen especially in the forthcoming school summer holidays. THANK YOU!!

MELTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAME WORK - CORE STRATEGY (ISSUES AND OPTIONS)

A posh name for the Borough Council's new Local Plans ideas of where the 1000 houses that should and will be built by the Borough before 2016. A lot of these will be built within or adjoining Category 1 villages, one of which is Asfordby. Both the Parish Council and those of you who have answered the Borough Council's questionnaires have said that we do not want more housing development in Asfordby. Since 1996 we have had 89 houses built in the village with a further 37 now under construction. The Borough Council options at the moment are:

- (1) infill building only
- (2) infill plus up to 50 houses on green field land
- (3) infill plus up to 100 houses on green field land

Infill could now only take place on the Asfordby Haulage and Storage site if it was sold off for development and although this might not be universally popular it is an option that could take care of all of our potential development and be an improvement on what is there now. How did they get planning permission to put that in the middle of the village in the first place? This option, although perhaps not popular, could help keep the village services and schools alive. Without enough customers these could eventually not be viable. Everywhere, eventually, needs young new blood.

Jelson has two large building plots on the outside edge of the village envelope in their land bank and have had for years. Do you want these to be developed?

Something that we don't always think about or remember that due to Council Houses still being open for purchase by current tenants, there is no longer, for those who can't afford to get onto the property ladder, that cycle of in one end and out the other. We need houses for young and, not so young to live in. We need Housing Associations houses, two and three

bedrooms for locals who need them. Not for people from out of the Borough or even the Parish. A Section 106 Agreement should take care of this, it did in Waltham. We need shared equity houses, those you can buy a part of and rent the rest. They do give you a start on the housing ladder and we have some of these on the new Jubilee Avenue extension. If we don't have these options where do people with very limited finances live. They don't all choose to be in that situation.

You might not all like what we have highlighted but put yourselves in the place of those less fortunate than yourselves.

Now Asfordby Hill - Category 2 - ONLY suitable for infill development - limited services. Currently an outline application for approximately 30 properties on the hard standing of Home Farm.

Asfordby Valley - Category 3 - ONLY suitable for infill development - no services available.

These options are for you to think about and let your Parish Council know your views.

**REMEMBER, DON'T WASTE WATER
A DIRTY CAR IS BETTER THAN AN EMPTY
TOILET SYSTEM**

Football Bowls Pool Darts Rifle Range Dominoes Whist

HOLWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB – THE STUTE

**Warm, friendly members' club open to all
Open 7 days a week – Entertainment every Saturday night
2 large function rooms available for hire**

WANT TO JOIN? CALL IN FOR A MEMBERSHIP FORM
Welby Road, Asfordby Hill

POLICE VOICE

As usual, firstly thank you for your continued support over the last few months as your Local Beat Officer.

Things are going pretty well at the moment. Crime is continuing to fall across Asfordby and its sister villages although isolated crimes will continue to occur despite all our best efforts. Please remain vigilant and please, please report all suspicious incidents or persons. I would like you to know that Asfordby is policed exceptionally well and I take great pride in the area.

There are a few things to raise with you regarding local issues -

(1) Please continue to use the **FREE CAR PARKS** when visiting the shops on Bradgate Lane, Asfordby. Since my last page, I have issued 6 tickets to offending drivers. Please don't be the recipient of a ticket for the sake of parking just a further 100 ft away. Most of you are responsible enough to use the car parks but there are others that just don't think of the consequences of parking illegally. Restrictions are there for a reason --- **SAFETY**. I will not accept lame excuses for illegal parking, and I will continue to issue instant tickets irrespective of the length of time you have been parked there.

(2) As I type, a "Police Notice Board" is being made. This will be erected on the edge of Bradgate Lane car park. This will be for police matters only and I will use it to keep you up-to-date with current crime and issues. Please make use of this board to keep yourself abreast of local matters. This should be in place by the end of June.

(3) Speeding vehicles**AGAIN**. I am increasing the use of the speed gun in and around the area. Please keep your speeds safe and within the limits.

(4) The use of trails, off-road or mini motos is not allowed around the waste ground off Asfordby Hill, nor are they allowed anywhere they can cause a nuisance or annoyance to other people. Due to continued

complaints, I will be seizing offending bikes and prosecuting riders. I realise that this has continued for several years but must now stop.

You can contact the police, or myself, in the following ways with any feedback about your area or the policing of your village.

- (a) my voicemail to leave me direct messages (0116) 2222222 id 1235
- (b) email me at martin.taylor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk
- (c) report incidents (0116) 22222222 which do not require immediate police response
- (d) 999 - requiring immediate response e.g. crime in progress.

POLICE SURGERIES

Up and coming police surgery dates to be held at the Police Office at the Parish Hall:

- 27 June 2006 - 10.00 am - 12 Noon
- 12 July 2006 - 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
- 7 August 2006 - 10.00 am - 12 Noon

Thanks for listening
PC 1235 Martin Taylor - Local Beat Officer

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COPY
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
4 SEPTEMBER 2006**

ASFORDBY GARDEN CLUB

We plan to be OUT and ABOUT this quarter, hopefully enjoying the summer sun. On Monday evening July 3rd we will visit the garden at Baxter's Farm, Willoughby.

There are still a few spaces on our coach to Gloucestershire on Wednesday 26 July, when we will visit Hidcote Manor gardens and the gardens at Kiftsgate. If you would like to join us please ring 812513.

James Ellis of Rothley will be our speaker on September 11th, his title "STREPHOCARPUS". The meeting will be at 7.00 pm in Asfordby Captains Close School Hall. Visitors are welcome to all friendly meetings.

WILD FLOWERS FOR COUNTRY PARK

Walking through our Country Park, we have been struck by a complete lack of colour. So what can we do about it? Sow wild flower seeds is worth a try. We wondered, therefore, if the Parish Council were to order a bulk delivery of wild flower seed and bag them up, whether you would be interested in buying a bag and sowing them yourselves in a specific area. You could then have the pleasure of seeing how your own seeds developed. We are looking into the costs involved and when we have made a decision we will put all of the relevant information on the Parish Notice Boards and Website.

**WHEN THE WEATHER IS HOT, BE CAREFUL ABOUT
LEAVING YOUR WINDOWS OPEN, THERE IS ALWAYS
SOMEONE NOT FAR AWAY WHO WILL TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF AN EASY OPTION**

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Dates for your diary:

OPEN CHURCH

We are hoping to have the church open on Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm during July and August.

JULY

Saturday 15 July - All Saints' Summer Fayre

Sunday 30 July - Tea Service - 3.00 pm

The Tea Service comprises a short service followed by tea at the Church. It is open to all but it is intended, particularly, for any residents of Asfordby who have difficulty in attending regular services. If you are interested in coming, or know someone who might be, please contact: The Rectory on 813130 or Isabel on 813994 for further information.

AUGUST

Sunday 20 August - Songs of Praise - 3.00 pm

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

Sunday 24 September - Harvest Festival - 10.45 am - Methodist Church

Sunday 1 October - Harvest Festival - 10.30 am - All Saints' Church

ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL GIFT DAY - SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Revd Mike and members of the congregation will be outside Bradgate Lane Newsagents to receive any gifts members of the community may be kind enough to give us. I'm sure it must seem like the church is always begging for money but it takes around £40,0000 a year to maintain and run the parish church in Asfordby and we are a relatively small congregation with quite a high proportion of older members. Many people in the village already support us through the planned giving scheme and we are tremendously grateful to them. However, I'm sure that anyone who has reason to use the church in their lifetime, or that of family members, for funerals, weddings, baptisms or for any other reason would like assurance that it will still be here in the future.

This is the point where I am obliged by our insurance company to tell you that we do not insure our church and contents for its full value. It's valued

at £5,000,000 and we insure for 75% of this. The premiums for 75% insurance are nearly £3000 a year but this does mean that claims up to £3,750 will be paid in full so I suppose it could be worse.

“love one another --- as I have loved you” John 13:34

MELTON - LEICESTER 5A BUS SERVICE

The Council has heard that from the 26 August 2006, the number of buses will be cut from three buses an hour to one. We feel that this a little drastic and that two, if reductions must be made, would be fairer.

Your Council wrote to Arriva when we first heard about it but they denied that any changes were planned.

When changes were last made to our service we were not informed and when asked why Arriva replied that they did not consult with Parish Councils, only the County Council. So we have asked our County Councillor J. Orson to look into the matter. We have also asked our Borough Councillors and the Borough Council to do whatever they can to help resolve what, we believe to be, too much of a reduction. With cheaper and free travel now happening, regular Bus services should be cutting down on car travel and so helping your environment to survive. Fingers crossed. We will just have to wait and see.

LICENSING ACT 2003

The Parish Hall was granted a licence for the sale and supply of alcohol following its application to the Borough Council on 23 March 2006.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library Service is being re-organised. This, of course, means that they are trying to save money. Part of this means that, after careful monitoring, the mobile service will not be making as many stops but will be staying longer at the places it does stop at. So once again, like all of the shops and services in the Parish, if you don't want to lose both it and them, use them. Once they have gone there will be no way back, its your choice.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Council have decided that to be fair to you, our residents in view of the amount of council tax you pay, that you deserve access to our Clerk for as long as possible. So EXCEPT for the third Thursday in the month, the day of the Parish Council meeting, the office will be open to the public - Monday to Thursday 9.30 am to 3.00 pm and 9.30 am to 2.00 pm on Fridays. We hope that you will take advantage of this new facility to discuss any problems with our Parish Clerk. She will also be able to point you in the direction of any of the Borough Council departments, if necessary.

MONTHLY SURGERIES

Meet your Borough Councillors, John Robinson and Mal Sheldon, to discuss any matters that concern you on the following Saturdays at Asfordby Parish Hall between 10.00 and 11.00 am. No appointment necessary.

1 JULY 2006

12 AUGUST 2006

2 SEPTEMBER 2006

TAKING STOCK OF LIBRARY STOCK

Leicestershire Library Services are running a stock marketing project. The key aim is to make sure the books, CD's and DVD's libraries provide match the needs of the communities they serve. In order to do this more effectively the project will concentrate on the way Leicestershire Library Services manage and promote their stock.

To help achieve these aims some consultation exercises are planned. Details of which will appear on the libraries website during Summer 2006.

If you would like to keep in touch with developments, please visit the Libraries website at www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/libraries.htm.

For further details contact Richard Walkuski, Stock Marketing Project Manager, Reader Development Team, Rothley Crossroads, 929/931 Loughborough Road, Rothley. LE7 7NH or email rwalkuski@leics.gov.uk or telephone 0116 2678023.

ASFORDBY PRE-SCHOOL

Asfordby Pre-School require a part-time pre-school assistant from September 2006. NVQ2 or experience preferable.

For further information please call Kim Price or Ros Hatherley on 01664 812630.