

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

This Years Service was our best attended for many years, bringing residents together from all parts of the Parish and for some, their first visit to our War Memorial, the Parish Hall.

What was particularly nice about this years service was the taking part in it by the Asfordby Brownie and Guide groups.

The service is about remembrance, not just for those who died in the wars but also those who survived, doing what they had to do, so that we could live as we do today, not as some that we hear passing comment, the glorification of war. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We look forward to you attending our next years service.

Thank you all.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Following a request by the Clerk to vary her working pattern, the Parish Council have agreed to change the the Parish Office opening hours to the following:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday - 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Friday - 9.00 am to 2.00 pm

Wednesday - Closed All Day

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MAY 2007

Parish Council elections will be held in May 2007. So for those of you who are aware that we have a Parish Council and think that the present one is rubbish (and you are out there) now is the time to get rid of us please!

What is the commitment? A genuine desire to make Asfordby a better place in which to live but you won't get paid for doing it and they could be the longest four years of your life.

It's not for you if you are on an ego trip or just to put something different on your C.V., or if you are on a single issue campaign, its all or nothing. Nor is it a party political Council, this is looked down on by the present Council. You will also need a thick skin as most people who stop you will only want to complain. So if you are prepared to accept all of these mostly negative comments then you are just what we are looking for.

Council meetings are usually held on the third Thursday each month at 7.00 pm. We usual finish around 9.30 pm. If you miss 6 consecutive meeings without an acceptable reason, you are out. There will be occasional working party meetings, some held in the day time, which can, if necessary, be covered by those who are retired.

There is no doubt that the Parish Council gets more knock backs than successes, but when we do you really get a buzz. So if it sounds like something you might be interested in, ring the Parish Clerk on 01664 812177, have a chat and think about it "Your Parish Needs You".

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It's Your Parish

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

Just over seven years ago when our then Clerk Janice and myself first discussed the worth or not of publishing our Parish Newsletter we decided that after a couple of issues we would re-appraise it and decide if it was achieving what we had hoped, this was for it to be something that you would want to read, inform you of Parish Council concerns, and draw you, the parishioners, into being a closer knit community. This we did, and decided that unless we made it more readable perhaps get our message over in a more light hearted way then neither of us would want to read it, let alone you. So we started to put in extra articles and pictures of OLD ASFORDBY, ITS YOUR PARISH to make it feel more chatty. These have proved, if what some of you have told me is true, to be quite popular especially the articles by a fairly regular contributor, Bill Rudkin, these are in the main enjoyable social history essays of Asfordby Past that are both informative and, at times, very amusing, very readable. So when I received a letter through the Methodist Church from a lady who now lives in the U.S.A. I thought that it would be well worth putting in this quarters newsletter. She had been brought up and lived in the village for many of her early years but who has lived in the U.S.A. for many more, who has never forgotten her early years here, and has made visits to relatives over the years, who I'm sure won't mind me saying that she will now even consider herself to be a lady of a certain age, who has never forgotten her early years here in Asfordby. She receives a copy of the Parish Newsletter on a regular basis and while reading a recent one which had in it a simple question asking "Does anyone know why the Money Dykes are so called", lots of memories of those early years came flooding back although they meant something to her quite different to what that question was all about. When I first read her letter which was obviously written from the heart it made me, someone who is

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considered by some to be a rather cynical, hard hearted person, to shed a man-type tear, one that appears in the corner of the eye but you pretend isn't there. She was remembering a time in Asfordby that she'd never forgotten, a time that I wish the passing of time hadn't changed, one that seems totally removed from our present society, simple enjoyments, trust, honesty and a feeling of belonging. Things change that is inevitable and rightly so. Unfortunately we have become more materially orientated at the expense of belonging and that is sad. Now for those of you who don't know where the Money Dykes are imagine that the By-pass isn't there and that Saxelby Road goes straight on, and of course, there are no houses, Rose Cottage is there and opposite where the Burnaby Place car park is a farm, the Money Dykes, a footpath down to the Hoby Road is gated to the left near to what is now a turning area. What follows is the letter that I received, read it and enjoy what was then for her quite an idyllic life, but one that we now couldn't begin to imagine, that in a time when every second counts we would be able to cope with.

MONEY DYKES 1938 - 1939

What incredible memories I have of that area in my childhood. By going past Houghtons on the right at the beginning of Saxelby Road is where I begin, on my left was an old house now called Rose Cottage, it was home to an apple tree, scrumping was the game, and I watched those apples carefully, when they fell my joy was uncompromisingly wonderful. I'm sure the lady who owned the house did not mind but as a child I looked around carefully before I picked up the drops, what a treat. This was pre-war and food, even then, was scarce. I walked that road daily with a bucket of water and chicken food am/out, pm/in. We owned chickens that

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lived in an unused brick shed, courtesy of Mr Toon, remember his cows as they dunged the street near the river (Riverside Walk) everyone in the area jumped at the dropped material as they crossed the road. Village living was much more lived then. Back to Saxelby Road, every day before school I went on my way to Money Dykes, the seasons came and went, the hedges were covered with Money, Really!! I picked gigantic blackberries in season and sold them to regular customers. Blackberries thrived in the Money Dykes. In September I picked mushrooms and sold them, many were the ways of making pennies. In the Spring I picked sweet smelling violets. Money Dykes really was money to me. Gypsies had their unbelievably beautiful wagons parked there by a small pond, they cut the willow branches and made clothes pegs. They were there for as long as my memory holds and they never stole our eggs. If it was snowing or raining, they would close the chicken doors for me, the eggs were never touched. Other days, especially in the hunting season, I would open the gates for horses or cars. The gates separated the grazing land from the road. On my way home from this pastime, maybe sixpence or a shilling richer, I would gather haws from the hedges for the chickens. When coal was scarce in 1939 I would gather sticks from the hedgerows, always careful not to take away any live wood. I do not know where the name came from but it was very appropriate to the area for me. Such childhood memories are gold coins to me now and as such, I treasure them. Thank you for reminding me.

Diane Fielding, nee Bottomley.

Think on what you have just read and consider that for those of you who put materialism before belonging that all that glitters need not be gold, but as Diane stated at the end of her reminiscences, memories that remain with you for so many years are worth far more than something that glitters for such a short space of time.

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IT DOESN'T PAY TO MESS WITH JANICE

A big well done to brave Janice Harbin who was determined that two gun-toting thugs were not going to get their hands on the takings of Northfield Store on Charnwood Avenue, when the two offenders entered the shop at about 8.00 pm on Tuesday 28 November and demanded the cash while waving a gun in her face. Janice decided that enough was enough and waded in putting the two balaclava thugs to flight. This was an extremely shocking experience, but its business as usual for Janice who says that she won't be put off by an experience that she could have well done without and she will still carrying on working there. Janice you are a real Heroine. Asfordby is proud of you.

How can we all help in some way to prevent events like this happening again? For starters we should all be vigilant at all times. If you see a car that you don't recognise or appears to be going around and around a particular area then just jot down its registration number. If you see people, particularly if you don't recognise them, wandering aimlessly around or watching a particular property, then just jot down a rough description and the time of day, the same with the cars, and if you are in any reasonable doubt ring 0116 222222 and tell the police. If you see them entering a property then ring 999. We can all hlep in some small way just by being that extra bit more vigilant. After all, it could well be your property being entered.

MONTHLY SURGERIES

Meet your Borough Councillor Mal Sheldon to discuss any matters that concern you on the following Saturdays at Asfordby Parish Hall between 10 am and 11 am. No appointment necessary.

6 January 2007

3 February 2007

3 March 2007

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROJECT OF ASFORDBY PARISH

Hello Asfordby. Your Parish Council has a new project for you. We have 4 acres of land between Glendon play close, the allotments and Hoby Road, 4 acres that have been unused for about 20 years.

The Parish Council decided it was about time to make this land work for the Parish, we want to make it into a Breathing Place for Nature.

If you have been watching Springwatch on the BBC you will know what a Breathing Place is. The BBC's way of getting the nation out enjoying wildlife and improving their community space for themselves too. This is what we want to do in Asfordby.

The Plan so far is to fence the area off from the allotments and make the gate from the play close into the main entrance to the site. To survey the site so we don't destroy species already living there before we prepare the area for seeding with native meadow grasses and flowers. There is a lot of rubbish on the site. Inorganic rubbish will be removed and organic material will be used to form a small compost bund that will provide a habitat for insects and other creatures as it degrades.

Once the new grasses are growing we plan a mown path meandering around the site, similar to that in the Golden Jubilee Park. We want to include fallen logs for natural seats, areas of tree stump seats to provide "outdoor classroom" areas for the schools, and a feeding station where you can hang bird feeders and where you can bird watch.

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The Parish Council have a "Steering Group" to lead the project and we have applied for lottery funding under the Breathing Places Scheme. So if you like the sound of this project and want to see it happen, please let us know at the Parish Hall.

If you can offer support or help in any way or just want to be involved, give us a call on the numbers below. At least buy your lottery tickets and keep your fingers crossed they chose our project to fund.

Contact Numbers:

Rachel Cates on 01664 810135 or the Parish Clerk on 01664 812177.

AN UPDATE ON WOULD YOU TRUST A DEVELOPER

The verdict from the Planning Appeal Inspectorate in Bristol has come out in favour of the developers Merrimans and against Melton Borough Council and as such Asfordby Parish Council, despite Merrimans knowing when their planning application was approved that they had to provide a ball stop fence. They even submitted to Melton Borough Council a plan of the fence that they would install. They waited until the development was finished and properties ready for occupation to object.

The decision was taken by an Inspector who must obviously never have played football himself who claims that footballs are hardly ever kicked out of touch sideways and the worrying thing for your Parish Council is that it is the Council's responsibility to provide a fence, to prevent balls going over the hedge and causing damage, this could cost anything up to £8000. We are currently enquiring of our insurance company the cost of the increase to our policy to cover any claims made against us if we do not provide the fence.

We feel that the real reason for Merrimans reluctance to provide what they know was a condition of approval is that customers being

asked up to £300,000 for a property would not like seeing the fence, and being jointly, with the other occupants, responsible for its maintenance, will they eventually not like the constant rumble of skate boards on the half pipe that is provided or the flowery language of footballers and the 30 odd youngsters who regularly meet there for a chat. Will that be the Council's responsibility? NOT as far we are are concerned.

The field has been the Parish playing field and used by Village football teams for the past 60+ years, it was this when Merrimans bought it so why should it cost you? We have no right of appeal. Merrimans have no scruples. We don't expect many developers to have a conscience, Merrimans certainly haven't.

This decision has caused one of our Councillors to resign and several others are considering the same course. We feel that there could, at some time, be the likelihood that we could be surcharged if our insurance policy was found not to cover a particular claim. We are all well aware of the pitfalls of litigation in this day and age. This decision has come as a real shock not just to Asfordby Parish Council but also to Melton Borough Council who never expected Merrimans appeal to be successful. WOULD YOU TRUST A DEVELOPER particularly this one. You must BE JOKING!!!

PAVEMENT CLEANER

Our new pavement cleaner has been provided by East Midlands Airport and the persistence of Councillor Johnny Garland who pursued their Chief Executive with such fervour that he could nearly have been accused of being a stalker. A cheque eventually arrived for £1000 and it was very gratefully received and it covered exactly the cost of the new cleaner. So once again, thank you East Midlands Airport for your generosity and thank you Johnny Garland for your persistence.

POST OFFICE SURVIVAL

We seem to be bringing up this subject every issue but believe you me Central Government is intent on destroying this facility, not particularly ours but rural ones in particular. At the time of writing there is the planned likelihood of further cuts of between 2500-3500 rural post offices announced

We know that some of you seem to be ashamed of being seen to be old enough to stand in a queue for your pension, well believe me, if one person knows that you are 65 then everyone does. So if you really want to travel to Melton or even further afield to carry out any transactions that you can now do in the village then don't use it. The Government will be pleased but if you want what is a good service, served by pleasant staff, then **USE IT** because it could also be the difference of perhaps not just losing the Post Office but the newsagents as well. You have been warned.

ASFORDBY GARDEN CLUB

We begin our 5th year with a talk and slides about "The Ins and Outs of Bulbs" by Eric Webster of Loughborough, on January 8th. John Gregory of East Stoke will again entertain us with his talk and slides on "Shrubs all the year round", on February 26th. Ian Whitehead is a well-travelled and very knowledgeable speaker from Hucknall. On March 12th he will show us more of his journeys in "A Botanist in France".

All our meetings are from 7.00 to 9.00 pm at Asfordby Captains Close School. Visitors are always welcome to this very friendly club (just £2 per night).

For more information, ring 01664 812513 or 01664 813127.

ASFORDBY SURGERY

While recently sitting in what every other parish in the Borough must be very jealous of, a clean modern very functional and well equipped surgery, I wondered if our new residents knew that it was there, and very easy to get an appointment. Yes, it is a different doctor nearly every day Monday to Friday but that isn't always a bad thing and once you know the rota then you can adjust accordingly. Not only is there a doctor present but we have a clinic nurse in attendance who can do blood tests, blood pressure checks and everything else that is within their remit, so please make use of it. Pleasant staff and G.Ps, and if your hearing is really good, a nice selection of CDs that make me feel better without a prescription, but if you do need one, take it down to the chemist in the middle of the village, a complete service within the parish. How lucky can we get?

Opening Hours are 8.30 am - 11.30 am

Surgery Hous are 9.0 am to 11.00 am

Telephone: 01664 812714

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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

THE HIGH COST OF VANDALISM

That dreaded word is costing you a fortune, particularly in the last quarter, and by local, what shall we call them, intelligently challenged young persons. We try to be politically correct, at the start of a new year. The total cost up to the beginning of December is £1900 made up as follows:-

Benches	£600.00
Picnic Tables	£600.00
Window	£100.00
Play Area Gate	£500.00
Hire of Skip to clear up behind pavilion	£100.00

This doesn't include the cost to the County Council, a part of your council tax, of vandalism to the Wendy House at Captains Close Primary School, damage that could have been caused by two more of the intelligently challenged brigade. We believe that the Wendy House attackers have been identified and it is in the hands of the police. We bet that worries them no end. Now don't do that again you naughty, naughty boys.

STOP PRESS - On 9 December 2006 the IT Centre was broken into at approximately 7.30 pm.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COPY
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
4 MARCH 2007**

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Happy New Year!

Our services for the coming year follow the same monthly pattern as previously.

1st Sunday of the month	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship or
Family Service 2nd Sunday	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (followed by breakfast)
3rd Sunday	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
4th Sunday	6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

Holy Communion is also said weekly at 9.30 a.m. on Thursdays and 7.15 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

We have suspended our monthly "Notebook" for the coming year, largely due to increasing costs. Our apologies to those of you who have been disappointed by this decision. We hope to replace it with a free quarterly newsletter which will be delivered to all households.

ASFORDBY METHODIST CHURCH

The school room was out of action for a time in the summer due to the roof spreading. This has been propped now and we are back in use for the time being with a reduced area.

The Sunday club for children meets each week at 10.45 am. The Friday Club meets from 6.30 to 8.00 pm each week. This is for children aged 10+ We have no spaces available in this club at the moment, but anyone interested can ring 812513 to find out when we can take new children.

For weekly services please look at the Chapel notice board or on the Asfordby Parish Website, www.asfordbypc.org.uk.

NEW WEA COURSES FOR SPRING 2007

Buckminster - new venue - new course - new tutor!

The WEA in Buckminster is offering a new course in January 2007 called '*The Medieval church and parish*' with local tutor Philippa Jessop. This course will be held in Sproxton Village Hall from Wednesday 17 January, 7.30- 9pm and will explore church sites, the development of church structure, forms of worship and power relations. There will also be a half-day field trip to local churches included in the fee which is £37.50 or £32.25 concessions.

Melton Mowbray - new courses amidst old favourites

The WEA in Melton returns with ongoing favourites such as Tai Chi, Yoga for every body and art appreciation. They are also offering several new courses such as '*Book of the Month*' with Sue Love, '*Introduction to Counselling Skills*' with Christine Lane - both on Monday evenings in WEA Rooms at Brooksby Melton College. Two women only courses are being offered on Wednesdays: one in the afternoon - '*Carry on Disgracefully: a healthy lifestyle in later life*' and one in the evening '*Confidence building for women*'.

Stamford-based historian and tutor John Plumb returns to Melton to offer his '*Hunting Lodges of Melton Mowbray*' on a Wednesday evening, this time at Melton Carnegie Museum in Thorpe End.

For those interested in garden history, tutor Sue Blaxland will be offering her very popular '*Elizabeth I to Charlie Dimmock: gardens from a feminine perspective*' on Thursday evenings in WEA Rooms at Brooksby Melton College.

For information on the Melton and Buckminster courses, please ring Diana Corps or André Dixon on 01664 566816 or email the WEA office on omelton@wea.org.uk

Rearsby

Highly popular and experienced tutor Bob Payne returns to Rearsby Village Hall on Monday mornings starting 15 January 2007 with his course '*The Development of Melton Mowbray 1840 - 1890*'. This course will be exploring all aspects of Melton's development between 1840-90 including life in the town, transport systems, the impact of the Hunt, the growth of trade and commerce and the town's development. For further information please ring the Rearsby Branch Secretary on 01664 424 629.

KIRBY BELLARS W.I.

Kirby Bellars Women's Institute was founded in 1927. The original purpose of the movement was to educate countrywomen in home economics. During WWII in times of austerity and rationing the members supported the war effort by preserving locally grown food and also provided comforts for the troops by knitting and craft work. As most meetings were open by the singing of Jerusalem they earned the title "Jam and Jerusalem". In actual fact at national and international level (through the association with countrywomen of the world) the movement has become a powerful body able to lobby and influence government of the day through the resolutions passed at the AGM. This is still happening today.

At local and county level the activities, talks and functions cater for all tastes of the modern woman. Membership is open to any women, town or country dwellers regardless of ethnic background, religious faith or any other consideration. Members join by payment of an annual subscription.

Kirby Bellars W.I. meets in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome to any of the meetings and prospective new members can attend several meetings before committing themselves.

We would also be pleased to hear from any women who are not free to join but would be willing to help at any event organised by the W.I. such as the refreshments at the Art weekend in May.

For further information contact Margaret Oliver on 01664 810117.

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OFF ROAD RIDING AT ASFORDBY HILL

I am David Stannage, a resident of Asfordby, I have lived here in excess of 16 years. I am a past youth leader of a motor cycle club for youths, currently I own and run my own Auto Repair and MOT garage. I write in response to PC Taylor's comments which have been published in the parish news.

While I applaud any officer who is willing to spend his time and effort in reducing criminal activities, I am somewhat at a loss in understanding his viewpoint with regards to the waste ground at Asfordby Hill.

In the years that I have been resident in Asfordby, I have myself personally made use of the Asfordby Hill waste ground in excess of 13 years for the purpose of Off Road Motor Cycling. In all the time that I have been Off Road riding on the waste ground I have never had a complaint raised by another resident of the area.

As the area is waste ground there can be no complaint of causing damage to property, as it is fairly secluded there is little chance of disturbing anybody. About the only result of the waste area being used for Off Road riding is that those who would be possibly otherwise engaged in vandalism and criminal or anti social activities are quite happily spending their time and effort in a activity that is causing no harm to anybody. Most of the people who use the area spend a great deal of time and effort in ensuring that their Motor Cycle is safe to ride, that they have protective clothing, armour and helmets. These are things that many who ride "legally" on the roads pay less attention to, relying on a yearly MOT to assess the safety of their Motor Cycle.

I have witnessed many youths, and adults, using the waste ground for Off Road Motor Cycling. Some of these youths, in fact most of them, are of the age group that had been categorised as most likely to be the cause of vandalism and other criminal acts attributed to "Bored Youths with nothing better to do" Yet here they are behaving in a manner which causes offence to nobody, having fun without destroying property. Personally I would sooner see them using the waste ground to ride there Motor Cycles, Mopeds and Scooters, than see them come screaming along the footpath in the village proper. Some of us are willing to even form a new Youth Off Road Motor Cycling Club, to run and manage it according to established guide lines. All that is needed is the land and some assistance from the authorities to help defray costs

If you wish to contact me regarding my views please do so, during the day on 0116 2511881 and evenings on 07970202488