

ISSUE NO. 379

MAY 2026



ASHCOTT & PEDWELL

WHAT'S ON

YOUR MONTHLY VILLAGE GUIDE TO NEWS AND EVENTS



Please supply all items for inclusion in the next edition by the
17th of the month to: ashcottwhatson@gmail.com
Or, if you can't email, you can post hard copies in the letter
box at the Village Hall.

What's On is compiled, published and distributed by
volunteers on behalf of Ashcott Village Hall & receives
financial support from Ashcott Parish Council.

HALL CHAIR - DEBBIE SHINGLER.....01458 210947
HALL SECRETARY - MARTIN TIMMS.....01458 210691
BOOKING SECRETARY - MELANIE FRENCH.....01458 211182

ASHCOTT VILLAGE HALL MAY BOOKINGS							* = In Committee Room # = Caterer Outside	
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
					1st	2nd	3rd	
AM					Table Tennis			
PM					Table Tennis	Private event		
Eve		-			Pub Night /Music quiz			
					# Fernando's			
	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	
AM	Line Dancing	Table Tennis	Toddlers	Table tennis	Table Tennis	Plant sale	Table Tennis	
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis			
Eve	Table Tennis		Table Tennis		# Fish and chips			
	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	
AM	Line Dancing	Table Tennis		Table tennis	Table Tennis	Table Tennis Tournament	Table Tennis	
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis	"		
Eve	Table Tennis		Table Tennis	W.I	# Pitta & Grill			
	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	
AM	Line Dancing	Table Tennis	Toddlers	Table Tennis	Table Tennis	Big breakfast		
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis			
Eve	Table Tennis	Garden club	Table Tennis	Line Dancing	# Fish and chips			
	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	
AM		Table Tennis	Toddlers	Table Tennis	Table Tennis	Avalon Stitches		
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis	Avalon Stitches	-	
Eve	Table tennis PCC*		Table Tennis		#Guest Caterer (details on Facebook)	-	-	



Polden Wheel Church Services May 2026

Sunday 3rd May

9.00 **Catcott**

10.00 **Moorlinch**

Sunday 10th May

9.30 **Burtle**

11.00 **Ashcott**

6.30 **Edington**

Thursday 14th May

11.00 **Ashcott**

Sunday 17th May

10.00 **Shapwick**

10.30 **Chilton Polden**

Tuesday 19th May

7.00 **Catcott**

Sunday 24th May

9.30 **Shapwick**

11.00 **Burtle**

6.30 **Ashcott**

Wednesday 27th May

10.00 **Edington**

Sunday 31st May

10.00 **Stawell**

4.00 **Catcott**

Easter 5 (White)

Holy Communion (BCP)

— *please note the earlier time*

Holy Communion*

Easter 6 (White)

Holy Communion

Informal Worship **

Holy Communion

Ascension Day

Holy Communion

Easter 7 (White)

Café Church

Holy Communion

A Quiet Service

Pentecost (Red)

Holy Communion

Informal Worship**

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Trinity Sunday (Green)

Holy Communion

Prayers for Peace

**The new Bishop of Taunton, Fiona Gibson, is taking this service at St. Mary's Church, Moorlinch and we have been to join them.*

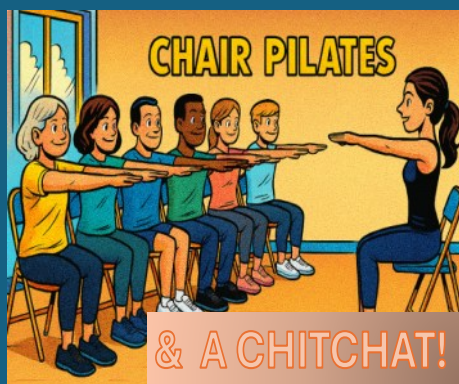
*** With Polden Praise*



Please contact Sarah Jones –
07971 056 744
or bodykraft@jonesplace.co.uk
if you wish to sign up for the class.

Classes will begin on 17th April.

Fridays; 10.45 am – 12 noon @
Ashcott playing fields pavilion - £10 per session



Chair Pilates class for 45 minutes and then for those that wish to stay,
30 minutes of socialising with a cup of tea. Come along with a friend 😊

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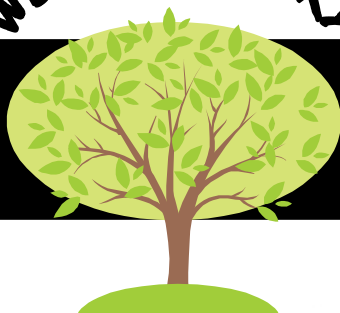
Readers should make their own checks before proceeding.

Advertisers:

Please ensure there is good contrast between your wording and background when submitting a colour design as this magazine is printed in **BLACK & WHITE**.

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MELANIEBENNETT@ALBIONINNASHCOTT.COM





THE BIG MUSIC QUIZ NIGHT

at
ASHCOTT VILLAGE HALL
Friday 1st May

We are delighted to have **Clive** (from the famous Rotary music quiz) hosting an evening for our fundraiser for a new hearing loop for the Village Hall.

Teams of 6, £5 pp

BAR available (please don't bring your own)

Fernando's Shri-Lankan food available from 5.30 to 8pm

Doors open at 7pm Quiz starts 8pm

Booking in advance recommended

To book tables please call Debbie on 210947
or Pete Cole on 210445

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**GOOD NEWS! WE WILL SOON HAVE A WEBSITE FOR
ASHCOTT VILLAGE HALL, THIS CAN BE FOUND AT:**

ASHCOTTVILLAGEHALL.CO.UK

**IT MAY EVEN BE READY BY THE TIME YOU GET THE MAY
EDITION OF WHAT'S ON**

ON THE WEBSITE YOU WILL FIND:

- THE RECENT AND OLDER COPIES OF THE WHAT'S ON**
- SEE UPCOMING EVENTS**
- BOOK TICKETS FOR EVENTS**
- HAVE A LOOK AT OUR LOVELY FACILITIES**
- HALL BOOKING INFORMATION**
- INFORMATION ON THE GROUPS USING THE HALL.**
- HISTORY PAGE WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP
FURTHER.**
- PICTURE GALLERY.**

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK!

KEEPING YOUR VILLAGE HALL GOING

It costs around £26,000 a year to make sure it's there for you to use. These costs are for cleaning, utilities (gas, electricity, water, broadband), insurance, maintenance, and other smaller expenses.

Our regular income (this year shown) comes from those who hire the Hall (£14,500), a grant from the Parish Council (£1,100), solar panels (£1,400), and other income, mainly donations (£3,700). The remaining £6,000 needed to balance the books, (not a predictable amount) comes from the Panto (this year, £3,400) and our own fundraising (£2,400). So, we start every year knowing we need to find a minimum of £6,000.

The Panto income and our fundraising are not guaranteed to be this high. As you know, the cost of everything goes up every year.

When you see something is being organised at the Hall, please do come and support it. Events like the Pub Nights, Film Nights and some of the quizzes all raise money for the Hall. Every pound you spend supporting the Hall helps it to keep going.

To ensure this facility is here in years to come for your birthday parties, receptions, wakes and other private events please give the Hall your support.



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PUB NIGHT

at
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Friday 5th June

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ASHCOTT & PEDWELL W.I.

TO ALL LADIES LIVING IN ASHCOTT & PEDWELL

We would like to invite you to our W.I meetings. They are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 p.m in Acott Village Hall.

We have a monthly speaker giving talks/demonstrations on various subjects. Also during the evening we have fun quizzes and a great bookshop selling second-hand books for £1.

Tea, coffee and cakes are available during our social time. Visitors are very welcome, there is just a £3 charge for the evening and refreshments.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 21st May @ 7.30pm

SPEAKER: Emma Duke

TALK: Driftwood Teardrop

For further information please contact:

ANGELA NUTT (PRESIDENT) 07834454757

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8TH MAY

22ND MAY

5TH June

Fancy?

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Please share any photographs you may have
from the last 60 years of Cheeky Chimps either
to the team or email
cheekychimpschair@outlook.com



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email it to our chair at
cheekychimpschair@outlook.com,
or send it via our Facebook page.



Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Ashcott and the surrounding hamlets



It's been another busy month!

I attended the annual Legal Service which marks the appointment of the new High Sheriff of Somerset, Peter Dixon. Somerset's beautiful ceremonial sword and scabbard are kept safely by High Sheriffs during their term of office.

I ran 29 surgeries last month – 13 at my regular monthly venues and 'extras' in 16 rural cafés, your pub night and another, a beer shed, garden centre café and in community hubs. Thank you if you came to speak to me. I value listening to your views and concerns, which inform my work as your MP in Westminster.

Locally, I was proud to join Amnesty International's local representatives to mark International Women's Day. They campaign relentlessly for access to legal and welfare support for the many female prisoners held in terrible conditions across the globe.

It was a pleasure to welcome Tim Farron, MP and Lib Dem Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to my 'patch'. We spent a day visiting inspiring people and projects and Tim spoke to an audience, answering questions from farmers and others. If you'd like to know about future events, please contact me.

In Westminster, I met the 'real' Ash Smith and Peter Hammond of '*Dirty Business*' fame, discussing the newly-released sewage spill data for 2025 and what can and should be done to clean up our rivers, streams and rhynes. I also attended a joint NFU/WWF/RSPCA meeting advocating fair trade - high standards for food imports and I've met the Energy Minister to highlight the problems for rural households dependent on increasingly expensive oil for their heating and hot water.

In Parliament I have spoken on a number of matters, raising the following:

- * the importance of returning to 0.7% spending on overseas aid as both humanitarian and national security measures

- * securing guarantees that foreign national prisoners complete their UK Court ordered prison terms when they're transferred to their 'home' country
- * rigorous monitoring by the Home Office of the contract for tagging offenders released early or on licence
- * whether drug company incentives should be investigated as these may influence which drugs are prescribed
- * reforming the regulation of Funeral Directors
- * holding Government to account for top level briefings given to Peter Mandelson before his vetting was completed
- * pressing the Government on the need for pumps to be ready prior to flooding, not after it happens
- * outlining the need for strong measures and clear accountability for safeguarding in small religious organisations and cults
- * ensuring planning regulations protect the accessibility of hospital helipads for air ambulance use

My next local 'surgeries' are listed below, but please visit my website or contact my office for the full list.

Friday 1st May from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Red Cow, Brent Knoll**

Friday 1st May from 18:00 to 19:00 at **The Pub Night, Village Hall, Ashcott**

Monday 9th May from 09:00 to 10:00 at **The Bluebird Café, Wedmore**

No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

Thank you.

Tessa

You can contact me:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won't need a stamp!)

To keep updated on my work as your MP, find me on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and LinkedIn.

You can also contact your Somerset Councillors:

Matt Martin 07766 382563 matthew.martin@somerset.gov.uk

Harry Munt 07896 255176 harry.munt@somerset.gov.uk



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THANK YOU

NEW HEARING LOOP FOR THE HALL

WE'RE PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT A NEW HEARING LOOP SYSTEM WILL BE INSTALLED DURING MAINTENANCE WEEK AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO A GENEROUS GRANT FROM MILES HURMEN, ALONG WITH THE FANTASTIC SUPPORT FROM THE VILLAGE THROUGH EVENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OVER RECENT MONTHS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A SINCERE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED MAKE THIS HAPPEN. YOUR SUPPORT WILL MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

BELFRY COFFEE MORNING



EVERY WEDNESDAY 10 - 12 AM

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Open to all for a coffee and a chat

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SUNDAY SESSIONS

**April 19th: Jon Wood, The Rhynes,
The Charlie Miller Band**

**FROM
1pm**

**May 10th: No Fixed Abode,
Gentle Jazz Sax Quartet, Sidetracks**

**May 31st: Jamie Lovell, Martin Ansell,
Debbie Cassell**

**June 21st: Half a Shanty, Brian Cooling,
Liam Howard**

**July 5th: Freya Delgano, Male Voice Choir,
September Son**

**August 2nd: Jack Sayer, Bob Gallie,
Priddice Brothers**

**Sept 6th: Mark Venus, The Bad Cowboys,
Jennie Mc Namara Band**

**Sept 27th: Bit o' Bling, Strange Folk,
Van and Stin**

Food available from the Little Van Rouge



The Railway Inn 89 Ashcott Rd, Meare, Glastonbury BA6 9SX



FERNANDO'S
THE SRI-LANKAN GOURMET

We will be serving at
Ashcott Village Hall
on

Friday 1st May

5:30—8:00pm

Vegan Kotthu 8

Chicken Kotthu 10
->Chicken thigh cooked with SL spices

Black Pork Kotthu 12
-> Slow cooked pork belly with black curry powder

(Kotthu -> Stir fried chopped SL flat bread
with Leeks and Carrots)

Vegan Rice Box (GF) 10
->Dhal with spinach/ Carrot salad/ Caramelised onion

Meat Rice Box (GF) 13
->Chicken or Pork/
Carrot salad/ Caramelised onion

Chickpeas (GF) 7
->Stir fried with fresh coconut chunks and Curry leaves

Add Cheese for Kotthu 2

ASHCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Dear All,

Installation of Dog Waste Bins

The Parish Council have installed 3 dog waste bins in the Parish.

These are red bins and located
in Chestnut Lane, Whitley Lane and Pedwell Lane.
Please do not use the general litter bins for dog waste.

Reporting potholes & highways issues

Please report these direct to County Highways on the link
below. The Parish Council has no 'short-cut'
method of reporting them. Given the detail required you can the
pinpoint the precise location of the fault
you wish to report when filling in the online form.
<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

Be Safe, Be Seen

Concern has been raised that in low light it is difficult to see
people walking in the road.
Please 'Be Safe, Be Seen'. The evenings are drawing out but the
light is still disappearing quickly at
sunset – so please take care.

The Parish Council's new email address is

clerk@ashcottonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Dates for Upcoming Meetings

Month	Meeting Date – 7pm On Monday the	Items for the agenda by 5pm on Tuesday the
MAY	18th	10th
JUNE	15th	9th

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

The following activities listed below regularly take place in the Village. A contact name and telephone number are also given for those requiring further information on any activity.

Ashcott Ladies Rounders Team	Ali Evans	210828
Ashcott Village Hall Committee	Debbie Shingler	210947
Ashcott Parish Council	Vicky Young	860827
Ashcott Garden Club	Trish Hulatt	210861
Playing Field Pavilion Bookings	Paula Willoughby	07561063229
Ashcott Youth Football	Colin Macpherson	07921210364
Avalon Stitchers	Daphne Willis	07484101425
Coffee Morning - Ashcott Church	Marion Folkes	211246
Ashcott Garden Show	Kay Wensley	210973
Line Dancing (U3A)	Elaine Robertson	01458 840252
Miles & Hurman Trust	Sandra Frampton	210050
Baby & Toddlers	Paula Willoughby	07561063229
Retired Men's Breakfast Club	Ian Bagg	210770
Pantomime	Sue Wilton	210585
Ashcott Beer Festival	Duncan Cameron	210713
Short Mat Bowls	Jenny Todman	210437
Table Tennis	Peter Rendle	210583
Table Tennis (U3A)	Wendy Fouracres	07890604059
Village Agent	Main Line	01823 331222
W.I.	Angela Nutt	210889
All Saints Church	John Harvey	210562
Ashcott Church Bell Ringers	Henry Routley	210238

**If there are any other activities which you may be interested in,
and would possibly like to help organise, please contact
the Chair: Debbie Shingler on 01458 210947**

ALL SAINTS'

BIC **BREAKFAST**



MEET
NEW
FRIENDS

SUPPORT
CHURCH
FUNDS

FULL ENGLISH, CEREALS,
JUICE, CROISSANTS,
TOAST, TEA/COFFEE

£10

CHILDREN HALF PRICE

RAFFLE

BRING
& BUY
STALL

ASHCOTT VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 16th MAY

9.00am – 11.00am



A TRIBUTE TO MO CARSON

IT WAS WITH SADNESS THAT WE HEARD OF THE
RECENT DEATH OF MO CARSON,
OF KINGS LANE, ASHCOTT.

FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS, MO WAS THE
HARDWORKING, MUCH APPRECIATED,
BOOKING SECRETARY OF OUR VILLAGE HALL,
ENSURING THE HALL BOOKINGS
WERE KEPT WELL ORGANISED AND USERS WERE
PROMPTLY INVOICED, THEREBY
SECURING VITAL INCOME FOR THE VILLAGE
HALL.

MO WOULD MEET NEW USERS AND SHOW THEM
THE FACILITIES THE HALL
COULD OFFER, AS WELL AS DEALING WITH
SOME OF THE INEVITABLE PROBLEMS
THAT CAN OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME.

MO WOULD ALSO WORK IN SUPPORT OF VILLAGE
HALL FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES,
CONTRIBUTING TO THE THEN ONGOING
DEVELOPMENT OF THE HALL.

IN ADDITION TO HER WORK WITH ASHCOTT
VILLAGE HALL, MO WAS ALSO A
COMMITTED VOLUNTEER AT THE HEAVENS GATE
ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE AT
HENLEY, USING HER CARING SKILLS TO
SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED.

OUR VILLAGE HAS GREATLY BENEFITTED FROM
THE MO'S VOLUNTARY WORK, FOR
WHICH WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL.

ASHCOTT GARDEN CLUB

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

VILLAGE HALL - MAY 9TH AT 10.00 AM

MANY BARGAINS TO BE HAD AND, AS
USUAL, DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS.



YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!



The Village Hall is an important part of our Ashcott community, and is supported by a hardworking and enthusiastic committee. However there are occasions when they would really appreciate a helping hand.

If you are willing to help out in setting up the Hall for events, lending a hand during maintenance week, general tidying up, or litter picking for example, we would love to hear from you. Whatever you can do, however little, would be greatly appreciated. And if we can enrol a register of volunteers to call on when needed, that would really help.

Further details from Debbie Shingler, Chairperson
01458 210947

THE RING O'BELLS: SOLD

As this edition was going to press, news broke that the Ring O'Bells has been sold at auction (subject to contract) to The Miles & Hurman Trust.

This has been a long, difficult process. It is hoped that the sale will complete in the coming weeks, and then there will be the challenges of securing the site, and carrying out essential repairs to ensure the building does not deteriorate further.

Then will begin the task of bring it back into operation. It is hoped that this will result in a pub/cafe/shop business, but it is early days and much support will be needed from the community.

Please be prepared to help bring this project to realisation.



CHURCH NEWS

Hi folks,

We are in a strange world when the President of the United States thinks it is a smart move to insult the Pope. The present Pope, Leo, follows recent predecessors, like John Paul II and Francis, in showing great courage in speaking truth to power. Christians are called to follow Jesus above all else – and certainly above the antics of political leaders.

I was recently listening to an audiobook about an extraordinary (and well documented) trend in Muslim countries: Muslims having visitations in their dreams from Jesus. The individuals concerned don't immediately come to faith. Instead, many begin a process of finding out who Jesus is and what it would mean to follow him – and to consider the personal cost of doing so.

During this process, potential converts are often asked two questions: “are you willing to suffer for your faith in Christ?” and “are you willing to die for Christ?”. These are not the seeker-sensitive questions that you'd find in the courses we run here! It is very challenging and humbling to know that Muslims who convert to faith in Jesus Christ do so while fully recognising that they may suffer greatly for doing so, even to the extent of losing their lives.

Boldness in the face of opposition is a striking characteristic of many who follow Jesus. Converts from Islam display it. Pope Leo's outspoken boldness with regard to the President is therefore entirely appropriate for a Christian leader.

Every blessing,
Rich Tweedy
vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk



A global leader

Image credit: Vatican News