

2009 ASHBY PC ANNUAL WEBSITE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

As our website advertises an organisation in the UK our address remains easy to remember because it is www.ashbystmary.org.uk

Since it was introduced two and a half years ago the Council has ensured the website has been regularly updated. This has usually been carried out on a monthly basis. Although I currently undertake the maintenance of the site, the site continues to have our clerk and another councillor who could access the site to update it if needs be.

CONTENT

The website has remained largely unaltered in style and content throughout the year. It was not designed to be anything other than a straightforward site that should be easy for anyone to view and navigate. The aim was, and remains, to provide a simple method of delivering information about the council, its meetings and activities to its parishioners. One object of the site is to offer as much relevant information as possible on each page. Where that is too large to display (such as meeting minutes), usually just one further step displays the appropriate document.

The website currently still contains the same number and names of pages. These comprise a HOME page, plus others for CONTACTS, MINUTES, DIARY, LATEST NEWS, HOMEWATCH, REPORTS, PARISH HISTORY, HANDBOOK, ROADMAPS, GALLERY AND LINKS. A few words about some of these.

On the HOME page we have not only retained the date of the last update but, to assist viewers, a broad description is provided of the most recent amendments made. So if the date is the same as when last viewed, there will have been no changes.

In CONTACTS we display an ever-expanding list of local contact details for councils, councillors, police and homewatch, as well as many other organisations that serve our local community.

To complement this, the LINKS page offers access to their websites and those of other useful relevant websites.

The DIARY page is ideal for checking the date, time and venue of not only forthcoming Parish Council meetings but also (when known) Ashby's annual village charity events such as the excellent 'Strawberries and Bubbly' and 'Cheese and Wine' gatherings. On our GALLERY page, pictures from some past occasions can be accessed. If anyone can supply more photos for these or similar events the Council looks forward to receiving them.

A couple of repeat DIARY requests here - if anyone wishes to advertise a forthcoming local event or meeting of direct interest to Ashby's residents, the Council is keen to publicise the details so please get in touch with our

clerk or any of your local councillors. We would also like to repeat our request for the brief loan of any photos of historic views of Ashby, past events or activities especially including the cricket matches which took place, for publication to enhance the village element of our website.

During the year, on our REPORTS page, a 2008 review of the Parish Council's 2005 Parish Plan was added which referred to the progress made by the Council to its original Action List.

The Council is delighted the coy and anonymous Ashby rainman continues to supply his gleeful reminders of when villagers got soaked to the skin every month. Over the past year this occasionally chilling information has been provided in ever-greater detail on our HANDBOOK page. Our grateful thanks for them, wherever you are, Ashby rainman.

THE FUTURE

I have almost finished a Walk Round Ashby webpage which will include some local landmarks or features to spot en route for added interest. Any suggestions or contributions towards this before it is finalised will be most welcome.

While changes to anything are not always met with wild enthusiasm, where worthwhile improvements can be made, they can hopefully be justified. On behalf of the Council and with its permission, I hope to undertake a minor revamp of our website during the forthcoming year, not by disturbing the website content, but more by way of refreshing its overall look.

AND SO IN CONCLUSION

Please, parishioners, spread the word about our website's availability to your village friends and neighbours. It contains even more information that is useful to persons living in and around our parish of Ashby. It has attracted the attention of many other organisations some of which have requested links from it. The Council always considers these on the basis of relevance and suitability.

The Council hopes all those who are already regular viewers have found the site to be both beneficial and interesting. The good news is the site remains inexpensive to retain and maintain, and continues to offer good value for money. The Council hopes you continue to enjoy, and maximise the use of, your village website which can be found at www.ashbystmary.org.uk.

That concludes my 2009 report on the Ashby St Mary website.

Mark Rolph
Parish Councillor