

2014 ASHBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2013-14 WEBSITE REPORT

The Parish website has now served the parish council and parishioners for 7 years. It can be found at www.ashbystmary.org.uk and its title appears on all the parish council's agendas, minutes and correspondence along with its own unique quick response code, the first parish in Norfolk to have one.

The site is updated as soon as possible after new information for Ashby's parishioners becomes available. It's prime aim is to continue to provide essential information to Ashby parishioners, for example, its announcements, meeting dates, planning decisions and minutes of its regular meetings.

The basic structure of the parish website has remained unchanged since its upgrade last year. For quick reading the opening Home page contains bullet point details of the updated changes and highlights the latest news subjects. The Management page includes information concerning the running of your parish council. Handbook is broadly a directory of local contact details. History has the ever-expanding parish event reports and local gallery of pictures including those from Ashby Past which has already brought about ancestry enquiries. Homewatch details the parish council's service to Ashby residents of police messages concerning alerts for our parish and those adjoining it. Throughout the website there are folders or links containing many documents, plans, contacts, local organisations, external websites, refuse collection dates, bus times and much more.

During the past year, some detail has again been updated on almost every page. This has included the usual meeting agendas and minutes, police alert homewatch messages, planning information, items about villagers and village events, and the parish's rain statistics. A couple of notable 'firsts' were achieved during the year with the addition of two film clips of the local charity cricket match held last summer and, with thanks to Roy Roebuck, I was also pleased to add information about Ashby's churchyard.

In the previous 12-month period 12 website updates have taken place involving close to 100 changes or additions. Notice of these updates are notified via email to any resident who wishes to receive them via the parish council's established Ashby Update Service. Any resident can request to receive these messages which are sent approximately once a month. As you will have seen in our flyer inviting you to this Annual Parish meeting, your parish council urges you to register for its free update service which will alert you when there is any news – already over a quarter of Ashby households are using the service. The service also includes the free-to-join Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate for domestic heating oil users. The syndicate continues to expand, (the latest member joined last week) and has been used to great effect several times in the last 12 months.

Your parish council remains satisfied the website really is of genuine benefit to the vast majority of its residents and remains good value for money. Moreover your council is proud of its website and is keen to encourage more parishioners to be aware of and benefit from all it has to offer.

So next time you're surfing the web on your computer, mobile or tablet, why not take a look – it's at www.ashbystmary.org.uk.

That concludes my 2013-14 report on the Ashby St Mary website.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor