

Askett News

Photo: Alan Strawn

ASKETT SOCIETY AGM 2024 - CHAIR'S REVIEW

Dear Asketteers,

As Chair of the Askett Society, I have the delightful role of thanking all the amazing volunteers who make such an incredible effort, across a host of different activities, in the year under review. So in this, our first Winter Newsletter, I want to build on what I said at the recent AGM in recognition of some key initiatives and individuals.

Choosing three highlights for my AGM introduction allowed me to amplify the critical importance of the Askett coffee mornings (second year running!); celebrate our unique village community through the lens of a blissful summer garden party; and encourage further innovation and creativity, by drawing attention to the opportunities provided by our new, entertaining and informative newsletter. Enthusiastic appreciation was shown for each of these exemplary contributions in turn, but of course, these are only a tiny selection of all that is great (and enjoyed by many) in the village throughout the year.

This year's AGM entertainment was a gamble through an artistic selection of photos taken by Askett Society members. The Askett Village Photoshoot was the brainchild of Phil Crookes and Alan Strawn (huge thank you to both!), and all agreed the quality and variety of photos on show was remarkable. This view was shared by Alison Beck (Chiltern Society's photography specialist), and the reason why we now have some beautiful Askett Greetings Cards – please contact Phil if you wish to order more!



Best in show:
“Morning walk with Jasper, Echo and Ivar”
Ness Coppock

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After drinks, our Princes Risborough Town Councillors provided valuable context on local planning issues. In summary, the landscape is expected to change under a Labour Government, the outcome of which will be “many more houses in our back yard”. Further detail is available in the minutes of the AGM, now posted to the Askett village website – Members’ section.

As per usual, we cantered, at pace, through the business section of the AGM: signing off the 2023 AGM minutes and accounts and electing (or re-electing) committee members. I would say, this was to everyone’s delight. Next year, if you are thinking of joining friends at the pub, for the AGM, remember it is a celebration of the year passed, and lots of fun!

And finally, I would like to thank again the steadfast service, joyfully given by Anna Crookes, who stepped away from committee duties at the AGM, after eleven years as an Askett Society Committee stalwart. Your contributions and character have been greatly appreciated by colleagues on the committee, and I’m sure by everyone else in the village!

Here’s to 2025!

Stuart Thompson



Stuart presented Anna with a lovely bouquet created by Rachael Roberts (Vale Cottage). (Not even the envelope stuffed with fivers could persuade her to do another year as Treasurer...)

>>> REACH OUT TO YOUR COMMITTEE!



Stuart Thompson (Chair)
Jonathan Baker (Treasurer)
Sammie Catt (Secretary)
Phil Crookes (Newsletter)

Richard Bushnell (Planning)
Ewa Palmer (Events)
Stuart Shearman (Environment)

ASKETT IN ACTION

There's a lot going on! Here's a round-up of recent and upcoming community activities.

Halloween



Though the morning treated us to a foggy mist, it eventually cleared to allow the many decorations to be put up through the day.

Then came the evening. How wonderful the outfits were. Witches, zombies, Frankensteins, bats and a Creeper.

The hanging doughnuts on the Village Green were quickly eaten to the sound of giggling children and adults. Then off we went under the starry dry sky. Torch, candy bag or lantern in hand to visit the houses on our Askett spooky map.

Carved pumpkins, glowing candles, cobwebs and wonderful treats. What tremendous joy it was to see the happy children.

It was near the end of our walk when I heard a "When are we going to my house?" from a Minecraft Creeper.

To which I replied, "Now!"

With such delight he turned to parade us back towards the village.

And thus it ended at a reasonable hour to give the children time to eat a few candies before brushing their teeth (hopefully) and then to bed.

The decorations have now all gone and hopefully packed away until next years spooky Askett evening.

Ewa Palmer



Published with parental permission

Walking Club (The Wandering Asketteers)

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful village with excellent access to lovely scenery. There is no better way to enjoy it than in the company of some like-minded friends. That is why I asked for fellow neighbours to join me in exploring this area. Unfortunately, to date Mother Nature has not exactly smiled on our endeavours.

➤➤➤ On Saturday 23rd November a few of us braved the ravages of Storm Bert, but not wanting to get in his way too much, we restricted ourselves to a simple stroll around the local fields. The weather might not have been kind but it was still lovely to be meeting people and chatting.



➤➤➤ On 27th November, after a gloomy start, the day dried out a bit and we wandered off determined to complete a loop. Nothing would stop us: waded through the flooded paths, sunk in the mud, and climbed over/under fallen trees. Now that is definitely a determined adventurous bunch!!!



Join us next year. I will be sure to walk the path before we head out to be sure that the path is friendly for both 2 and 4 leg walkers. Dates for 2025 are listed below in *Upcoming Events*. Meet me on the Green in front of the Three Crowns. Feel free to contact me on Cristina_baker@yahoo.co.uk or 07455073691.

Cristina Baker

Askett Choir



Rehearsals are under way for the carols around the tree! We had a fantastic turnout in Stuart and Louise's barn and are revving up for December 20th.

Anna Crookes 🎵



Askett talk

"It was a really fascinating experience, sometimes very sobering, sometimes quite bizarre but also occasionally uplifting."

No, not the AGM. This is how Jes Holmes describes his 2023 expedition to Africa with the goal of researching access to medicines. On 2nd February Jes will give a talk entitled:

"Medicines and Two Thousand Miles Across Africa"

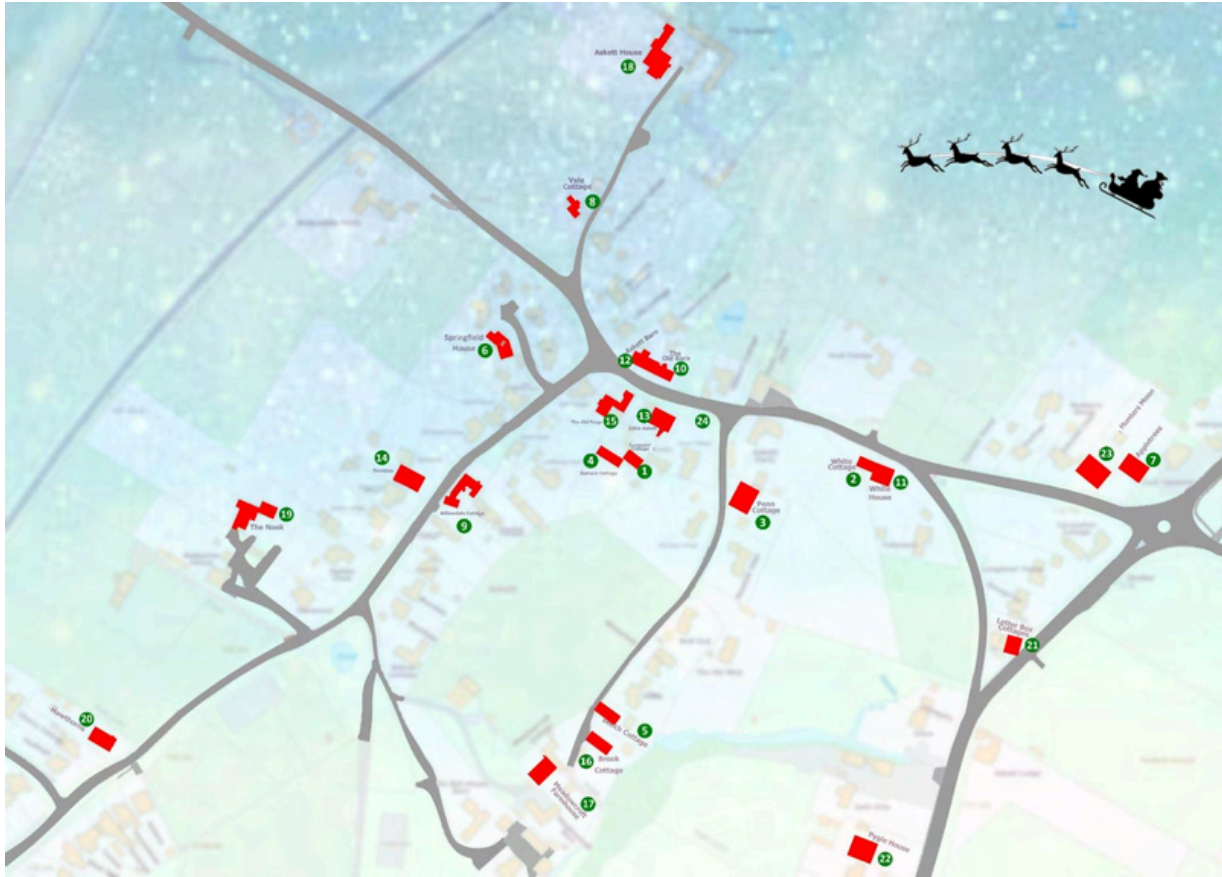
See details under Upcoming Events, do come along to what promises to be a most entertaining and informative evening.

Book Club

Lucy Fleet is exploring the idea of a Book Club and has spoken with the library about borrowing sets of books and how best to run a club.

Watch this space - and if you are interested, do let Lucy (Askett Barn) know when you see her!

Our advent countdown is under way! Thanks to Jenny Lawson for organising this, see details in Jenny's email dated 4th November and this map to guide our path:



Map created by: Ann Phipps

FROM THE ARCHIVES

“No. 1 Safari supper May 2017”

At the end of the safari supper everyone convened at the home of Andy and Gaynor for a 'nightcap'. A group photo taken up the staircase was going so well until somebody hailed 'Everybody take crash positions !'

Courtesy of Alan Strawn



>>> DATES FOR THE DIARY

Our community connection continues to thrive, with several events in the diary.
A huge “Thank You” to everyone who makes this all happen.



Tuesday 10th December
Coffee morning
10.30am at Beech Cottage
Contact Alison Maycock

Friday 13th December
Special Christmas Shopping
Evening, Risborough High St.
Until 8pm

Friday 20th December
Christmas Carols around
the tree at 6.30 pm,
followed by drinks at
Askett Farm

Wednesday 1st January
New Year Walk
Meet on the Green at 11am
Contact Alan Strawn and
Adrian Whitred

Walking Group - Contact Cristina Baker
Meet on the Green:

- >Wednesday 15th January at 1pm
- >Saturday 15th February at 9.30am
- >Wednesday 26th March at 1pm
- >Saturday 26th April at 9.30am

Sunday 2nd February
7.45pm at the Stable Bar
“Medicines and Two Thousand
Miles Across Africa”
Jes Holmes

Watch this space!
Book club
Contact Lucy Fleet

Let's get creative!

Thanks to a creative Committee member, here is advice on how to make a Compostable Winter Wreath

What you will need:

Secateurs, scissors, garden twine or string.

Fresh green willow stems over 1metre in length if possible.

Foliage from the garden (e.g. holly with berries for colour, yew, conifer and fir tree ends, rosemary, old man's beard, dried flower heads like hydrangeas, ivy...) and perhaps any loose feathers.

Photo 1: Bend the fresh willow stems to make a circle. To whatever size you like. Wind the stems around each other. Secure with string if you need to. Weave another willow stem into the ring and continue adding willow stems until you have a strong frame.

Decide where the top of the wreath will be and attach string, make a loop so you can hang it.

Photo 2: Make individual little bunches of foliage tied together at the bottom with garden string. Maybe a piece of conifer, with rosemary stems and then a small branch of holly with berries. Attach this little bundle to your willow ring using string. Overlap your next bundle to cover the string.

Photo 3: The back of the wreath. Try to not to let anything poke out at the back so not to damage your door or wall.

Photo 4: You do not have to fill the entire ring. This ring was made with 4 bundles.

Photo 5: Add hazel or something architecturally interesting. Even fruit, but remember these will rot quickly.

Photo 6: Your finished wreath. If not for yourself... a beautiful handmade gift.

Once you have finished with your wreath... put on top of the compost so the birds can eat the berries.

If you want to keep the ring for next year... snip off the foliage bundles and leave the ring to dry naturally.

1



2



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YESTERYEAR'S SPEEDWATCH

I was wondering what an Askett Newsletter of the past would report on. According to the British Newspaper Archive, speedwatch has been in the Askett headlines for years!

ACCIDENTS.—Two accidents occurred in this parish, which might have terminated fatally. On Thursday week Mr. Langston, of Meadle, with his son were breaking a colt in for the second time in harness, when in coming over the railway bridge at Askett, the horse made a sudden leap on the railway at the roadside. The fence breaking, the horse, cart, and occupants were rolled over two or three times down the embankment, the horse pitching on his head on some railings at the bottom. Providentially both father and son escaped injury, with the exception of a few scratches, and the cart was but slightly damaged. — Another accident

-JUNE 21st, 1873.

DECEMBER 20, 1873.

RIDING WITHOUT REINS.—*Richard Stallwood* was charged with riding, while fast-asleep, in his cart, without reins, on the road leading from Askett to Monks Risborough.—The offence was committed on the 12th instant, and defendant said he had been a very long journey.—He was fined 12s., including costs.

Harry Rogers, aged 18, who said he was in the employ of plaintiff, and on the 14th August he was driving a cart of plaintiff's at Askett, delivering butter. He left some butter at the house of Mr. Orchard, at Askett, and drove towards Monks Risborough. Soon after leaving Mr. Orchard's there was a blacksmith's shop, where there was a turn for Monks Risborough.

Mr. Reynolds: What pace were you going?

Witness: At a good walking pace.

Mr. Reynolds: What is that?

Witness: A steady trot. (Laughter.)

Continuing, witness said he was on the left side when Marshall came driving across the road and ran into his (Rogers') horse. The shaft of Marshall's cart ran into his (Rogers') horse behind the right shoulder, and the shaft broke off. The horse was knocked clean round. Walter Foster

Saturday, August 25, 1900.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1919.

MOTOR COLLISION. — On Friday afternoon, August 8, a serious motor collision occurred at **Askett** cross roads between a motor van belonging to the Aylesbury Steam Laundry and a Royal Air Force lorry. The van, driven by Miss Lily Bunyan, and occupied also by John Wilson, an employé at the laundry, was proceeding from **Askett** to Cadsdean, while the lorry, containing a number of soldiers, was being driven to Princes Risborough. It collided with the van broadside on, completely wrecking it, and Wilson became entangled in the wreck-

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1949

Lorry Driver Trapped

Whisky, gin, brandy and beer bottles were smashed in the road at **Askett** on Monday mid-day when a dray overturned coming round the corner of Cadsdean-road, near the Black Horse.

Princes Risborough "Advertiser"

(August 1937)

Police "Trap "

Many of the cases arose out of a police trap, when drivers were timed over 220 yards at Askett and Monks Risborough by P.S. Wain, with the assistance of P.C.s Drage and Smith. These cases were on July 8th.

George Stanley Moulding, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire, did the 220 in 11 1/5 seconds. He was fined £1 and his licence endorsed.

Elias Read, did 11 seconds dead, or just over 40 m.p.h.—fined 20s.

"If I was doing it, I was doing it, that's all," said Steven Sorre, Severalls Avenue, Chesham. Apparently he was "doing it," for he was fined 20s. for covering the 220 yards in 11 seconds, or over 40 m.p.h., and his licence was endorsed.

"While I was picking my coat up off the floor, I knocked my hand on the gear lever and, before I could get her out of gear, she shot up speed," explained Albert Whiffen, of Stanner Street, S.W.11. He did 11 seconds dead and was fined 20s. and, as he had previous convictions for speeding, his licence was endorsed.

Phil Crookes

>>> WITH THANKS...

A big thank you if you donated plants to me this year for a charity stall in Great Kimble. The stall is run by Gwen Nicosia outside her house in Kimblewick Road. This year she raised £2700 which has been split between The Florence Nightingale Hospice and Cancer Research. I pass plants onto Sylvia Bennett who helps prepare plants for Gwen. You may remember Sylvia from our scarecrow workshop a few years ago.



I will put out a note next year to request more plants, in the meantime, Gwen is selling Christmas wreaths on the stall from December if anybody is interested.

Alan Strawn

I want to recognise some unsung heroes in the village: the mowing rota! These folk have tirelessly kept The Green and other bits and bobs tidy over the season:

Ken Coppock, Dave Cox, Anna Crookes, Jenny Lawson, Dan Roberts and Stuart Thompson. I'm sure others not on this official list have helped too - thank you, all.

Phil Crookes

Thank you to **Charles Ansell and team** for the warm welcome in hosting our AGM in October. The Three Crowns has hosted village gatherings for centuries, we are truly blessed.

The Committee

Thanks to **Donal Phipps** for maintaining a safe and secure <https://askettvillage.co.uk/> and to **Duncan Bull** for the historical <https://askett.net/index.html> and for handling our village email communications.

The Committee

Finally, thanks to all contributors to this Newsletter! Feel free to send me ideas or content for the next: see you in the Spring edition. **Phil** (Corner Cottage / 07803 496541)

Photo: Ann Phipps

