

WEEKLY BULLETIN

MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

9.30am – Fire Alarm Test

11.15am – Alive & Active Exercises

Afternoon – Train journey through
the Canadian Rockies

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Shrove Tuesday

Morning – Manicures / Pancakes at lunchtime!

Afternoon – Bingo

WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday

11.15am – Alive & Active Exercises

Afternoon – Quiztime

THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

Morning – Manicures / Afternoon – Disco Yoga

FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

11.15am – Alive & Active Exercises

Special Fish & Chip Lunch to celebrate
National Chip week

Afternoon – Parachute madness

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Afternoon – Activity of Residents Choice

SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Afternoon – Train Quiz

BROOKFIELDS

Private Nursing Home



As we celebrate Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday this week, Ashbourne celebrates it in a slightly different way!



Shrovetide Football is played in Ashbourne every Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday. This game has been played almost every year since at least 1667, and is thought to be one of the oldest forms of football in the world. Each year, the town's streets, fields & streams are filled with thousands of players and spectators who follow the match.

The game is played over two eight-hour periods. The goals are three miles apart and there are very few rules. The ball is rarely kicked but instead moves through a giant 'hug'. There is no set pitch: the game is played throughout the entire town, so shops and businesses board up their windows in preparation! The game starts at 2pm, when the ball is 'turned up' from a stone plinth on Shaw Croft car park in the town centre. The ball is thrown into the air and into the 'hug' by the 'turner up', a respected local person chosen to do the honour. Famous 'turner-ups' have included King Charles.

Once play begins, a large number of players try to move the ball to their goal by pushing against the opposition. The match continues until 10pm. If a goal is scored before 5pm, then a new ball is 'turned up' again and a new game started. If the goal is after 5pm then the game ends for the day.

It is similar to rugby, but there are very few rules. Despite the whole town being the 'pitch', the Shrovetide Football match can't be played in churchyards, cemeteries or

places of worship, and private property must be respected. One of the earliest rules was 'no murder' and one of the most recent is 'the ball must not be carried in a motorised vehicle!' Stewards are always at hand to ensure the game is 'safe'.

Shrovetide Football is played using a specially prepared, hand-sewn leather ball. Weighing around 4lbs, the ball is hand-painted to a design chosen by the local person picked to 'turn up' the ball at the start of the match. If the ball is goaled, then it will become the proud possession of the person who has goaled it.

Those born South of the Brook are the Down'ards, and try to goal the ball at the old Clifton Mill. Those born on the North are the Up'ards and try to goal the ball at the old Sturston Mill. The process is called 'goaling' rather than 'scoring'. To goal the ball, a player needs to hit the ball against their millstone goal three times. The scorer is usually elected en-route to the goal and is typically someone who lives in Ashbourne. It is a huge honour to 'goal' the ball and the scorer becomes a local celebrity.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LISA ! 21.02