



Community Reports 2013/14

Ash Community Reports

The Parish Council has decided to trial a new way of giving local organisations and groups a way of telling residents what they have been up to in the last year.

This is something done in some other villages so could prove to be a successful innovation here.

The idea is that every group active in the parish will be invited to submit a short report on what they have got up to over the last 12 months. In some cases this might include some basic financial information and maybe even photos in future.

It is not intended that the reports will be focused on the coming year although providing contact details and encouraging new members and participants will be a useful by-product of the reports.

It is hoped that if more and more groups take the opportunity of reporting in this way it will free up time at the Annual Parish Meeting and perhaps allow guest speakers in future.

The printed report will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting and a copy will also be available from the Parish Council website. It may also be available more widely in future if the community thinks that would be the right thing to do.

Invitations to submit reports were sent out to as many local groups as the Parish Council could identify and we are grateful for the contributions of those who responded. However, we would hope to see the numbers of reports increase in future years.

Do let the Parish Council know what you think about this innovation.

ASH HERITAGE GROUP

Charity no: 1142939 ashheritage.blogspot.co.uk

Contact: Ann Foat 01304 812121

We aim to preserve Ash heritage, conserving and maintaining within the village for the benefit and use of parishioners. We administer and maintain a suitable centre within Ash Village hall where items of local interest are stored and catalogued. We provide a suitable depository for organisations and groups to store their minutes and records. We welcome anyone who wishes to look at items we have, such as photographs, old videos, documents, letters, maps, taped interviews and club records. We are open on Saturday mornings 10 a.m. to 12 noon or by appointment at other times.

During this last year our activities have included a visit to Paramour Grange to see the painted room. We have presented short dramatic vignettes at St Nicholas Church Open Day. We have had visits from both primary schools in the village for short heritage walks and story telling sessions based on items held at the centre, this was part of the nationwide 'Explore your Archives' week. The David Downes' lecture was on the East Kent Light Railway by Frank Andrews. The display mounted for the Village Hall Open Day for organisations marked National Heritage Weekend.

This year 2014, in October and November, we are commemorating the centenary of the first World War with the David Downes' lecture followed by a recreation of the Ash VAD Hospital in the Village Hall and a commemorative evening event. A project, aimed at recording in photos and film the life of the parish throughout 2014, is involving many organisations and individuals throughout the year.

All this activity is made possible by a large band of supporter members, who contribute a donation every year. This is vital to sustain the Heritage Centre for all. Please contact us if you wish to help us by becoming a supporter member or wish to help in other ways, but above all come and use the Centre.

The Ash Society

Founded in 1984 as the Ash Field Society, it originally included the improvement of agriculture and horticulture in its field of interests, operates as a general interest group focusing particularly on Ash and the surrounding area but including the ancient county of Kent.

We meet on the third Thursday in the months October through to March at 7.30 in the evening in Ash Village Hall. Membership of the Society costs £4.00 per annum plus a charge of £1.00 on each evening. We have a very broad range of lectures but at our pre-Christmas meeting, which this year will be on the 4th December, 2014, we aim at something more light hearted coupled with mulled wine and mince pies. Our full programme will be published in September 2014 but for Christmas we will be visited by the "Deal Hoodners" (think Morris Dancers but with a particular Kentish style).

In the summer months we arrange a number of trips, usually five, to places of interest. Last year we enjoyed a conducted tour of Rye and a train trip from Tenterden to Bodiam Castle. As we tend to be a small group we share cars, meeting at the Village Hall Car Park.

New members are warmly welcomed. Please contact Ray Cooper on 01304 813861

ASH WITH WESTMARSH W.I.

The (2013) year has been both interesting and entertaining, with a good variety of activities. As a change from the Christmas and New Year Lunch, we held a Harvest Lunch in Ash Village Hall, with delicious food made by Members. Several Members attended the Group Carol Service, hosted by Word-in-Worth W.I., and the Annual Council Meeting in Margate.

The Speakers at our monthly Meetings have been varied. Memorable ones include Trish Cornwell – The Life of a Practising Vet; Sarah Sparks – Padded Postcards and Liz Acarnley – Midwifery in Ethiopia.

We meet for Scrabble, Craft and Chat and Bridge, together with monthly walks. Lunch outings were also incorporated into our

activities. Several of our Members belong to the Home Economics Group in Sandwich. One of our Members tends an herb border in the Village. Several Members also listen to local School Children read.

Outings have incorporated visits to Dover Museum, Marlowe Theatre backstage, Smallhythe Place and Tenterden, South Forelands Lighthouse, Kensington Palace and Buckingham Palace, London. We also spent a glorious Summer evening walking around a Member's orchards.

Our fundraising activities included a Christmas Fair; a Quiz and Quiche Evening; a Royal themed Coffee Morning and a Soup and Social Lunch.

We hosted the Wingham Group Top Team Quiz and won. Four Members competed in the Final at Canterbury.

Our Spring Show was held in April, where 17 members exhibited their cookery, craft and floral items. Three Institutes entered in the Inter W.I. Competition.

We supported the Wingham Spring and Autumn Group Meetings hosted by Goodnestone and Littlebourne W.I.'s respectively.

Our Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, commencing at 7.30pm and are held in the Ash Village Hall. We have an interesting Programme of Speakers for 2014. Outings to the V & A Museum, London and Dobies Garden Centre for lunch and then Godinton House are being arranged. Ladies will be most welcome at any of our Meetings.

Should further information be required, our President, Joy Comfort, can be contacted on 01304 813024.

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS (of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital)



Ash was the very first village to set up a group of the League of Friends of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital following a public meeting set up by the village GP Dr. James Ogilvie on 26th November 1953. The first fund raising event – a film show – raised £5.16s.0d. which in the early days was used to buy comforts for the patients in Nunnery Fields.

We no longer put on film shows for the local villagers and the nature of our fund-raising events has evolved over the years to suit modern lifestyles. However, we still run a huge variety of different events – including a hugely popular fashion show which raised over £1,000.

The League buys essential as well as the latest technological and up-to-date equipment for the hospital, either as an individual group or as part of a combined effort by all the groups and the central committee of the League has a Diamond Jubilee project of providing an accommodation suite to be used by relatives of very ill patients.

Recent purchases by Ash group include Acrylic Mirrors for Physiotherapy, Hip Protectors for HCOOP (Health Care of Older People) and an ECG machine for Out-Patients Department, comfortable chairs for patients, a TV and brackets. Many of the items we provide cannot be provided by the NHS.

We enjoy our fund raising events and are always looking for new members. Our contributions help to make patients' stays in hospital more comfortable and up-to-date equipment is essential for treatments. You never know when you are going to need it yourself, so if you are interested in joining us in our very worthwhile efforts please come to one of our events – or contact the Chairman, Janet Rumley, on 01304 813177 or the Secretary, Pat Wilkinson, on 01304 812670.

Parish Council Chairman's Report



Ash Parish Council is responsible for the recreation ground, the allotments and the toilets (but not the sports' pavilion), the ASH & WESTMARSH War Memorials, four bus shelters and several seats and litter bins.

Chris Turner was elected vice chairman of the Parish Council in May 2013 and work on the neighbourhood plan has continued throughout the year under his chairmanship.

During the year there have been several changes to the Council. First Neil Aplin joined the Council. Unfortunately later in the year we were saddened by the death of Robin Darvell. Robin added much to the Council's decisions and was responsible for superb ONLOOKER articles. Karl Roger has joined the Council in Robin's place.

There have been some new additions to the recreation ground facilities. A slide for very young children has been installed. Also on the ground the Rugby Club has installed floodlights. Unfortunately since Christmas these have not been used as organised sport has been banned from the ground because of the extremely wet weather. Hopefully between the time of writing on the 1st March and the end of March the ground will have dried sufficiently for them to be used again.

The Keep Ash Tidy day backed by the Council was very successful and thanks go to all those individuals and organisations which helped. Hopefully it raised awareness of the litter problem and encouraged some people to take their litter home.

Although the toilets in the middle of the village are owned by Dover District Council, Ash residents have to pay the yearly costs. These have now risen to £10,500 per year. The Parish Council would like to hear your views as to whether we continue to pay to keep them open.

Footpath EE465 runs from the north end of Queen's Road towards Sandwich parallel to the by-pass. The east end is

brambles which the County Council has refused to clear. The latest excuse is that it is not a designated footpath even though it has official numbered signs at each end.

In the autumn buses travelling through the village late at night were attacked and the service was withdrawn, causing problems for the majority due to the actions of a few. Fortunately the service has now been restored.

Councillors are also concerned at the appalling parking of some drivers in the street, particularly outside the shops. Parking on double yellow lines, on bus stops and across junctions often causes traffic jams in the centre of the village. The Council continues to press for more frequent attendance by DDC Traffic Wardens. You have been warned.

The Council has two noticeboards. One is on the toilet block adjacent to The Street Car Park and the other on the Ash Village Hall wall. The boards are for the display of any Parish Council notices, including minutes of meetings and other official notices that concern the Parish. In addition, if space allows, other parish organisations may put up posters advertising village events. It has long been the rule that the noticeboards cannot be used to display any party political, religious or commercial material. Nor to display activities and events taking place outside of the Parish.

I wish to thank the writers of ONLOOKER for the Parish magazine, also our Environmental Assistant, Andrew Wilkinson and our Clerk, Christine Haggart who will be retiring at the end of April 2014. Christine has been clerk for eight years and has carried out the necessary work in a very friendly and efficient manner. She will be sorely missed.

Graham Foat,
Chairman Ash Parish Council.

The Ash & District Horticultural and Cottage Gardeners Society

2014 marks 20 years since the Horticultural Society was revived under the Chairmanship of David McEwen, currently our President. The Society is affiliated to the RHS, and is a registered Charity for the advancement of Horticulture.

We are a very friendly society, always pleased to welcome new members. We have approximately 100 members with a wide variety of interests, experience and activity, ranging from professional horticulturalists with a wealth of experience, flower arrangers, gardeners with green fingers and some of us with more enthusiasm than expertise. Our many activities, detailed on our noticeboard inside the Village Hall, reflect the variety of our members' interests and the enthusiasm of our terrific committee members.

Our regular meetings are held in Ash Village Hall, at 7.30 pm, on the last Thursday of the month for nine months of the year. We have speakers, we sell plants, gardening gloves and gardening books, we talk about the weather over a cup of tea (and the best biscuits), and we have great raffles. We've organised tomato tastings, comparing varieties grown by members, compared locally available commercial composts hands-on (or rather hands-in), and we will be growing grafted tomato plants to see if they are worth the cost.

Our Shows are held on Saturdays in the Village Hall, the Spring Show at the end of March and the Summer Show at the end of July. The Rose Show in June is usually held in a member's garden.

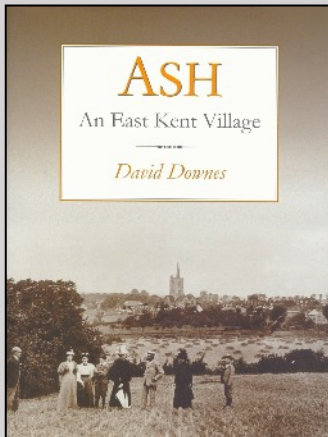
We organise **visits to local gardens, nurseries, farms and shows** (RHS Show at Hampton Court in 2014) and **summer tours** over a long weekend (Northumbria in 2013, Ludlow, Shropshire in 2014). We also have reciprocal arrangements with Woodnesborough Garden Society and Wingham Vegetable Society.

We support **gardening activities in local schools**. In 2012 some of our members assisted the children at Cartwright & Kelsey in planting their Olympic Garden. We are always encouraging children to take part in our shows. 2013 was the first year the Sylvia Proffitt Cup was awarded for the best effort in the children's classes, and we have introduced another age category for older children to encourage their participation. We have had tremendous support from our MP Laura Sandys, who will be awarding the children's prizes again at the 2014 Spring Show. She also encouraged us to include a class for Ugly Vegetables in our Summer Show, following her campaign on the issue.

The Parish Council has asked us to champion Ash entering **Britain in Bloom** and we will be supplying poppy seeds for the village to sow to commemorate the centenary of World War 1. In 2013, the Society produced the **2014 Ash Calendar**, which featured members' photographs of their gardens throughout the year, topical garden tips and included the major events of many of the village Societies.

Contact Liz Rath 01304 812644 or join us at any meeting or show!

Don't pay £25 at Amazon



Softback copies of
"Ash, an East Kent
Village"

are available from
the Parish Council
at £10 per copy.

Ash Bowling Club

There has been a bowls green and club in Moat Lane for over one hundred years with the first record of a match against Sandwich in a local 1911 newspaper.



The club has a modern pavilion, six outdoor bowling rinks and ample car parking for members and visiting clubs. The green is maintained by the members allowing the club to enjoy a low annual membership fee of £30.

The club offers lawn bowls for all standards of play from April to September. Our membership, of over 70, ranges from the youngest at 14 to several in their 80's and beyond. Members can play socially with club organised games and competitions. Many members compete in mixed, men's and ladies' matches against other clubs in the local area and in the Dover League. Some members compete in County and open tournaments.

New members of any standard are always welcome. The club has five qualified coaches and offers new bowlers free coaching sessions using club equipment. Youngsters over the age of 10 are encouraged to try their hand at bowling. The club has sets of bowls suitable for juniors that can be borrowed. All you need to supply is a pair of flat soled shoes.

During the closed winter season short mat bowling is available on most days in the pavilion. The short mat section also offers all standards of play from social games and club competitions to very competitive East Kent league matches. Beginners only need to bring flat soled shoes to enjoy short mat bowling.

The club offers regular social events during the year including bingo, quiz nights, treasure hunts and whist & scrabble evenings. A gentle weekly exercise class is also available. Bowling holidays are enjoyed by some members.

All of our members love the game and many say that they have formed true friendships. It is a very pleasant way of meeting many new like minded people.

You can be sure that you will be made most welcome should you consider having a go.

If you would like to try without committing yourself, or to join, or want any further information please contact

secretary.ashbowlsclub@gmail.com or contact Pam Mawson
01034 813629

Ash Cricket Club

2013 was a middling year in terms of results. We finished mid table in all the leagues we entered, but the cricket was enjoyable, as was the company!

On Saturdays we run two teams in the Kent Regional Feeder League and on Sundays we normally have just one team that plays a mixture of Kent Village League (Div 1) and friendly fixtures. There are a number of mid-week evening games and during the winter a team plays 6-a-side indoor matches in the Thanet Indoor League.

The most encouraging part of the year was the development of many of our younger players who are now holding their own in senior teams. But it wasn't just the youngsters as we have regular players ranging in age from 12 to 64 years of age. So if you fancy joining us there is a space for everyone. <http://ash.play-cricket.com/>

Ash Village Hall

Situated in Queens Road, the main hall was built in 1912 with major additions over the 1970's and 1980's of stage, store room, kitchen, toilet block, and Kent County Council Library Room. The Heritage Archive Room was opened in 2011.

The majority of village clubs & societies meet at the Hall on a regular basis, running their social and fund raising events, including the annual panto, whilst a host of activities from Dog Training classes to Senior Table Tennis, run weekly.

Many villagers book up for their family celebrations, the complex being fully equipped with crockery, cutlery, tables and chairs for 120. It's also a major venue for special rate children's parties – plenty of space for them to run around. To find out what's going on or for dates available to book - view the Hall's web-site at www.ashvillagehall.org.uk or contact the Hall Administrator on 01304 812489.

Ash Sports Pavilion

The Pavilion on the Recreation Ground is managed by the Pavilion Management Committee who lease the premises from the Parish Council. The Committee comprises representatives of the Cricket, Tennis, Football and Rugby Clubs together with a Parish Councillor.

There have been significant improvements made to the Pavilion over the last year or so, including a new kitchen and lighting in the main social area. There have also been improvements made to the drains. However, more work is planned for the coming year, including improved security and repainting of the exterior.