

ASH WITH WESTMARSH
PARISH MAGAZINE
JUNE 2026
£1



The Canonry Benefice of
Ash – Chillenden – Elmstone – Goodnestone
Nonington – Preston – Stourmouth

Useful Contacts

Service	Organisation/Name	Contact
<u>Emergencies</u> 999	Gas Emergency (24hrs)	0800 111 999
	UK Power Networks (24hrs)	105
	Water Leak Line (24hrs)	0800 820 999
<u>Community</u>	Non-urgent and other enquiries	101
	Ash Neighbourhood Watch	
	Josh Coombs	07546 212154
	Crime Stoppers	0800 555111
	Community Safety Dover	01304 872220
	Childline	0800 1111
	Kent County Council	08458 247247
	Dover District Council	01304 821199
	District Councillors:	
	Cllr Trevor Bartlett	07980 300084
	cllr-trevor.bartlett@dover.gov.uk	
	Cllr Martin Porter	07733 111334
	cllr-martin.porter@dover.gov.uk	
	Sir Roger Gale MP	01843 848588
	suzy@galemail.com	
	Ash Parish Council	07398 584 053
clerk@ashparishcouncil.gov.uk		
Citizens Advice (Dover area)	0844 8487978	
Ash Village Hall Enquiries	07947 832807	
Environmental Health	01304 872215	
Trading Standards	0845 4040506	
Ash Library	01304 812440	
<u>Healthcare</u>	NHS Medical Helpline (24hrs)	111
	Out of Hours Doctor Service	0844 8001234
	Ash Surgery	01304 812227
	Hospitals - Kent and Canterbury	01227 766877
	QEQM Margate	01843 225544
	William Harvey	01233 633331
	Pharmacy - Ash (Boots)	01304 812242
<u>Education</u>	Cartwright and Kelsey School	01304 812539
	St Faith's Prep School	01304 813409
	Sandwich Technology College	01304 610000
	Sir Roger Manwood School	01304 613286

**Times can be tough. There's always someone you can talk to 24/7.
The Samaritans: call 116 123 or visit samaritans.org**

~ If an error is noted please inform the editors ~

Welcome to the June Magazine

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Magazine Subscription

Never miss an edition of your favourite parish magazine! To arrange a subscription including magazine delivery to your door (within the parish) phone Rebecca on 07443 605873 or email rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com

Front cover

Rogation Sunday Afternoon Benefice Walk. By Pat Coles. See Parish Letter page 10

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Share Your News

Email copy for the next magazine edition by **Thursday 18th June** to rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com or post hard copy at 69, The Street, Ash.

Advertise in the Parish Magazine

Reasonable rates and a loyal readership

Send advertising enquiries to
ashpm.ads@gmail.com

Publisher's note:

This magazine is produced by St. Nicholas Parish Church. We welcome items from individuals and local organisations. All items should come with a note of the contributor's name. The editor reserves the right both to edit and not to publish anything she receives. Items on church matters do not represent the official position of the Church of England.

**St Nicholas
Church
Ash**

**WELCOME
SPACE**

Thursdays, 11am until 2pm

**St Nic's warm welcome space is
open for everyone throughout
the whole year**

**You are welcome to come along any time during our
opening hours and access:**

- **A welcome Space to sit and relax**
- **Free coffee, tea and soup with a roll**
- **Wifi**
- **Signposting and information**
- **Someone to talk to**
- **Community and friendship**

**More about Warm Spaces here:
www.warmwelcome.uk**

**More about us here:
www.thecanonrybenefice.org.uk**



What's On

THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDWICH talk 1st June - The Bayeux Tapestry: International relations then and now with Hilary Williams. The Guildhall, Sandwich. 6.30pm for 7pm. Guests £7.

HAPPY HOUR at Elmstone Church (or Church Meadow if the weather is fine) Friday 5th June from 6.30pm. For more Elmstone news, see page 26.

THE COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING at Ash Village Hall hosted by The Friends of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital (Ash Branch) is on Saturday 6th June from 10am-12noon. See poster page 20.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS meet at Ash Village Hall on Tuesdays 9th and 23rd June. 2-4pm. Games, conversation and companionship.

ASH AND WESTMARSH WI meet on June 11th at 1.30pm at Ash Village Hall for an afternoon of craft activities.

THE CHURCHYARD BASH. Saturday 13th June. 9am-noon at St Nicholas Church, Ash. Join volunteers to maintain the church grounds.

ASH HERITAGE GROUP 5-mile leisurely guided historical walk along the old Wantsum Channel shoreline on Saturday 13th June. Meet at Brookestreet Farmhouse, Cooper Street Drove 10.15am. See page **.

THE NEW ASH PLAYERS Summer Variety Show on Saturday 13th June from 7pm in Ash Village Hall. £7. See page 16.

THE FRIENDS OF ELMSTONE AND PRESTON CHURCHES Teas and Stalls Sunday 14th June 2.30-4.30pm.

OPEN DAY AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, ASH, Saturday 20th June 2-5pm. See poster page 12.

WEST STOURMOUTH OPEN GARDENS Saturday 27th June, 2-5pm
List of open gardens on sale in the church, £5 per person, children free.
Teas and cakes on sale in the church. In aid of Stourmouth Church and The Churches Conservation Trust.

Coming next month: Ash Summer Fair Saturday 11th July. Ash Recreation Ground.

WEST STOURMOUTH

OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 27th June, 2-5pm



List of open gardens
on sale in the church

£5 per person,
children free



Teas and cakes
on sale in the church



In aid of Stourmouth Church and
The Churches Conservation Trust



Regulars

Ash Pain Management Support Group – For anyone who suffers from long-term pain. Second Wednesday 11am-1pm at Ash Scout Hall, Molland Lea. £2 entry includes refreshments and a raffle. Contact Maureen on 07922 096932 or email maureenloveash@gmail.com with any queries.

St Nicholas Church Warm Space – Thursday 11am-2pm. There is free tea/coffee and a mug of hot homemade soup with a roll.

Ash Bowling Club Weekly Free Community Coffee Morning – from 10am-12pm every Monday at the club in Moat Lane. All residents of Ash are welcome. Free tea/coffee and biscuits.

Age Concern Sandwich Meet, Eat, Heat – two course lunch for £4.50. Mondays and Fridays.

Ash Library opening times

Monday 11:30am - 5pm (closed 1pm - 2pm)

Tuesday 9:30am - 1pm

Wednesday 9:30am - 2pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday 11:30am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 2pm

Sunday: Closed

Bank holidays: Closed

Ash Toddler Group – meet on Mondays in Ash Village Hall from 10am-11.30am in term times.

Ash Heritage Centre – opens Saturday mornings 10am-12noon and is home to a wide range of local historical items and records. (Not August.) www.ashheritagegroup.org.uk

Walk and Talk – slow-paced walking group meeting on Fridays at Ash GP surgery. 11.30am

Guides, Brownies and Rangers

1st Ash Brownies 7-10 yrs: 1stashnextsandwichbrownies@gmail.com

1st Ash Guides 10 - 14 yrs: firstashnxtswichguides@outlook.com

1st Ash Rangers 14 - 18 yrs: 1stashrangers@gmail.com



THE FRIENDS OF
ELMSTONE AND PRESTON
CHURCHES

— ● —

TEAS

— AND —

STALLS

— ❁ —

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

2.30 - 4.30 PM

— ● —

— ❁ —

ST. MILDRED'S CHURCH, PRESTON
CT3 1DH



Church Services for June

Sunday 7th June

Holy Communion 9am Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Holy Communion 10.30am Elmstone Church

Family Worship 10.30am St. Nicholas, Ash

Holy Communion 10.30am St. Mary's Nonington

Sunday 14th June

Holy Communion 9am All Saints, Chillenden

Holy Communion 10.30am St. Nicholas, Ash

Family Service with Communion 10.30am St Mildred's Preston

Breakfast Church 9.30am St. Mary's Nonington

Sunday 21st June

Holy Communion 9am Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Holy Communion 10.30am Elmstone Church

Family Service (no Communion) 10.30am St. Nicholas, Ash

Sunday 28th June

Holy Communion 9am All Saints, Chillenden

Holy Communion 10.30am St. Nicholas, Ash

Evensong 6.30pm, All Saints, Stourmouth

Private Prayer

Churches are open at the following times:

St Nicholas, Ash	All week 9.30am to 3pm
Holy Cross, Goodnestone	All week in daylight hours
St Mary's Nonington	All week in daylight hours
All Saints, Chillenden	Weekends 10am-5pm
All Saints, Stourmouth	All week in daylight hours

Other churches can be unlocked on request. Please note services may be taking place during this time.

Parish Register

Weddings

Samantha Snow and Hamish Shaw, 2nd May, Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Hannah Gillie and Peter Rutzler, 29th May, Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Funeral

Frederick Cullen, 15th May, St Nicholas, Ash

Note: error in previous edition: The name should have read Noah-George Edmunds

Parish Letter

This month I would like to share with you the lovely Benefice walk we had on Rogation Sunday, 10th May. If you had been coming out of Ash church, walking up The Street or on Queen's Road at lunchtime, you might have been amused by folk, including the Vicar, hurrying up the road with smiles on their faces! We had finished our church annual meeting but still needed to get home, grab something to eat, get changed, meet up and get to Goodnestone church for 2!

Some of us drove to Nonnington with a friend following so we could leave a car at the end of the walk, then drove back to park the second car at Goodnestone. It all worked beautifully. Once assembled in the church, we had a brief introduction from Rev Caroline followed by a thoughtful prayer from Anne to send us on our way. A huge thank you to Anne and husband Mike, who had worked out and pre-walked the route, leading us confidently through woodland, footpaths and around fields until we arrived at the beautiful ancient church at Chillenden. There we paused for prayer and reflection, not only on our own surroundings but also on places in the world today where there is conflict, starvation and suffering.

Thoughtful and rested, we set off towards Nonnington on well-used tracks. The weather was mostly overcast, which I found just right for a walk further than many of us were used to! What I really appreciated was the mix of folk from each church and how easily we chatted, sharing viewpoints on our churches, villages and local history, while simply getting to know each other better.

Two similar-sized dogs joined us too, including the lively young vicarage spaniel who had a wonderful time greeting everyone! Halfway through the last leg of the walk we stopped beneath a huge spreading tree for a group photo — it just had to be done!

The miles passed easily and the beauty of our area was amazing, from fields of crops to woodland and, nearing Nonnington, gently rolling parkland. After a short stretch of road past an amazingly beautiful Tudor house, Nonnington church's twin roofs came into sight. There, Anne shared the final reflections before hot drinks and a wonderful selection of cakes, kindly provided as Janice and Paul welcomed us into the church. (Thank goodness the last one had toilets!)

We all enjoyed the refreshments and the beauty of the building while hearing Caroline's final thoughts, followed by a prayer, blessing and even an unaccompanied hymn together. It really was a wonderful and special day. Thank you again to Anne, Mike and Caroline for making it happen. Looking forward to the next one!

Pat Coles

St Nicholas Church Annual Parochial Meeting

A positive meeting on Sunday 10th May began with a welcome from our energetic and greatly appreciated Vicar of 2 years, the Revd. Caroline Turvey.

She had written these words on the Book of Reports for the past year: “Welcome to our Church! We are a thriving, living church which supports the community and embraces everyone. We are a joyful, encouraging and peaceful church, there to support you with key life events and with your faith.”

This ‘book’ contains reports from 21 different people, groups, and aspects of church life here at St. Nicholas; a few copies are available in the church.

A new Churchwarden was appointed. Following the excellent job done by Jaqueline Wilkinson. James Piggott has bravely offered to take on this important and busy role.

Meet Your Churchwarden

Q. Who is James Piggott?

A. James has lived in Ash for 12 years now, having moved from Whitstable. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Queens Road. They have 2 children and 4 granddaughters, living in Eastern England.

Q. What was his job?

A: James retired recently from working as a solicitor, first in private practice, then in later years within Kent County Council and one of its companies.

Q. James’ interests?

A. Walking, especially in the Lake District; being a school governor at Cartwright and Kelsey School; Family and friends; church and community; food and BBQs.

Q. What are his priorities as churchwarden?

A. Church growth; children and families; pastoral care for the vulnerable (he is part of the Pastoral Care Team, led by Sarah Piggott).

OPEN DAY

at **ST NICHOLAS'**

Tower, tithe, teas and tours!

Come along and climb the 500 year old tower for the spectacular views of Ash and beyond! Listen to those ancient church bells. Marvel at the huge 1840s tithe map of the parish of Ash laid out before you. (It's big!) Join a guided tour of this historic church.

Find out about those fascinating people recorded on our ancient tombstones. Bring the family and join in the craft activities. Pick up a plant and browse the stalls. And most of all ... relax, have fun and put your feet up with a cuppa and a cake!

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE, 2PM – 5PM



KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN FOR MORE DETAILS DURING JUNE

Onlooker

A report of the Ash Parish Council meeting held on May 7th

Annual Appointments

May marks the Parish Council's annual meeting, where councillors are elected to key roles and appointed to committees and working groups.

- Chair: Cllr J. Tanner
- Deputy Chair: Cllr L. Venny

The Council expressed thanks to Ian Ellery for his work and support as Chair over the past year.

Committee & Working Group Appointments 2026/27

- Planning Committee – Cllrs Tanner (Chair), Davis, Gambrell, Venny, Porter
- Beating the Bounds Working Group – Cllrs Tanner, Rose, Venny
- Footpaths – Cllr Tanner
- Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) – Cllrs Tanner & Venny
- Ash United Charities – Cllr Tanner
- Ash Sports Pavilion Committee – Cllr Davis
- A257 Working Group / Highway Improvement Plan – Cllr Venny
- Cartwright, Godfrey & Kelsey Foundation – Cllr Porter
- Allotments – Cllr Tanner
- Patient Participation Group (Ash Surgery) – Cllr Rose
- Ash Village Hall Committee – Cllr Venny

Meeting dates for 2026/27 will be published on the Parish website and noticeboards. A reminder:

- Parish Council meetings: 1st Thursday of the month, Village Hall 7.30pm with the exception of the June meeting which will be held on the 2nd Thursday in June (11th).
- Planning Committee: 3rd Monday of the month, Ash Library 7.30pm.

Public Contributions

Residents raised the following matters:

- Continued antisocial behaviour at Pound Corner and The Street bus shelter
- Plans for a possible Junior Sports Day in September
- Concerns about inconsistent Royal Mail deliveries
- An update on the Ash Carnival Association on plans for a Summer Fayre

Important: If you experience antisocial behaviour of any kind, it must be reported to Kent Police via 101 or online. Without official reports, no action can be taken. We cannot stress this enough.

The Clerk will add notices to village boards with contact details for KCC, DDC, Public Rights of Way and other services.

Recreation Ground

- Play Area 2 works were due to begin in late May and last approximately 4 weeks.
- The council is pleased to support Eastry Ravens Football Club while their pitch undergoes repairs.
- Recreation Ground interim inspection has been completed with small improvements identified. The full inspection will be held on June 24th.
- Shrubs will be purchased for the central raised bed

Parish Small Grants

Applications were reviewed and approved, totalling £2,493.80 from the annual £3,000 fund. Successful applicants will be notified directly.

20mph Scheme

KCC has reviewed consultation responses and will now progress the scheme to the Traffic Regulation Order stage. Residents can sign up for alerts on the KCC Highways consultation page: letstalk.kent.gov.uk/highways-consultations

Goss Hall Valley Solar Farm

The developer has appealed DDC's refusal of the application and the Parish Council have agreed a detailed objection.

- www.ashparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cheers for Louise!

The Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards recognise residents who have made a significant contribution to the Parish of Ash.

This year, Louise Venny received the most nominations from parish residents and was awarded a certificate recognising her many contributions: "Making a positive difference through her dedication, energy, actions and voice; Ash Wildlife Friendly Village, Advent Windows, church bell ringing, spring bulb planting, litter picking, Speedwatch, charity fundraising, and more!"

Louise attended a Celebration Evening at Shepherd Neame, where her certificate was presented by the High Sheriff of Kent, Jonathan Neame. The award was also presented by the then Chair of Ash Parish Council, Ian Ellery, at the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th April. Congratulations Louise on this well-deserved honour and thank you for all you do for the Parish!



A History of Ash in 20 Objects

Call for expressions of interest

Ash Heritage Group is planning a project based on the successful initiative by Neil MacGregor, then director of the British Museum, in 2010 called A History of the World in 100 Objects. MacGregor took a chronological approach, ranging from a 2-million-year-old hand axe to a then contemporary solar-powered lamp, and we aim to do something similar to tell the story of our village.

We intend to assemble these objects in two ways: in a pamphlet, which can go on our website or be printed, or both; and in an exhibition at the Village Hall, possibly in Spring 2027. The figure of 20 is arbitrary but can be viewed as the minimum necessary for a worthwhile number of exhibits. The result should, we hope, be a fascinating, accessible and valuable tour through our history.

Now this is where you come in. 'Objects' can be defined broadly. Not just human-made artefacts, but documents, items from nature (any woolly mammoth tusks out there?), buildings, landscape features and so on. Almost everyone has some item of interest in their home, garden or garage, and even if you don't, you may well know of something that would fit the bill: an interesting gravestone, field outline or milestone perhaps. Or even an interesting person!

We would particularly welcome items from long ago, such as the 16th-18th centuries (or even earlier: Roman, for instance), Georgian-Victorian times, eg the 18th-19th century agricultural revolution, and of course the two world wars.

So, if you have or know of something that may be of interest to us, please get in touch with Ken Manktelow (k.i.manktelow@gmail.com) or one of the other committee members with a brief description; a few words and a picture would be good. In addition, the Heritage Centre at the Village Hall is open on Saturdays between 10am-12pm if you wish to discuss this further, or bring something along.

Many thanks, and good luck searching those attics and sheds.

AHG Committee members: Graham Doyle, Mary Evans, Kimberley Feeley, Edith Featherstone, Robert Hudson, Ken Manktelow, Kathy Mills, Veronica O'Brien, Luke Warburton and Cressida Williams.

Ken Manktelow

THE NEW ASH PLAYERS

present...

SUMMER VARIETY SHOW

SATURDAY, 13TH JUNE
FROM 7PM



GET YOUR
TICKETS TODAY!
TICKET SALES ARE LIVE!

TICKETS: £7 EACH

TICKETS
AVAILABLE
NOW!

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

AVAILABLE IN PERSON FROM POPAROUND NOW!

OR CONTACT FOR TICKETS:

07949 462034 — bpmoore51@gmail.com

* BYOB (Bring Your Own Food & Drink)

* Tables of 6-8 (Make up a table or sit with others)

BACKSTAGE HELP WELCOME!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ash Library Gets a New Look

Ash Village Hall Committee are delighted to share that our much-loved village library is being refreshed starting with a fresh coat of paint in May.

Behind the scenes, we've been working closely with the KCC Libraries to agree how best to use S106 developer contribution funds allocated specifically for Ash Library.

Here's what's coming:

- New flexible fold away tables that can be used individually or grouped together, giving user groups far more layout options
- Comfortable new chairs for use at the tables
- Cosy reading chairs to make quiet time even more inviting
- A mobile laptop table
- Streamlined information boards to keep the walls tidy and clutter free

These changes will help create a more welcoming, adaptable space for everyone - from study sessions and community meetings to children's activities and quiet reading. We'll keep you updated on progress, and we hope to arrange an opening event once everything is in place.

And there's more! 2026 is the National Year of Reading, the perfect time to visit the library and see what's on offer. From July 4th children aged 4 to 11 can join the Summer Reading Challenge - Read to the Beat!.

If there is something you would like to see at the library, a new group or activity, let the librarian know.

If you have a few spare hours a month, you could become a library volunteer and help deliver books to people who can't get to the library. There are lots of other volunteering roles too, sign up via the website www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community

The Parish Magazine welcomes articles and information from groups and individuals. Share your stories, news and views.

Email rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com or post hard copy at 69 The Street, Ash.

Ash Variety Show

The New Ash Players are presenting another of their popular Summer Variety Shows on Saturday 13th June from 7pm in Ash Village Hall. One night only.

It will be a cabaret-style evening. Tickets are available at £7: bring your own food and drink: sitting at tables of 6 to 8. You can make up your own table or sit with others when you arrive. Tickets are on sale from Poparound or call 07949 462034 - email bpmoore51@gmail.com. There are a limited number of tickets, so do get in early to avoid disappointment.

Our varied entertainment will include singers, tap dancers, music on strings, on pipes, a visiting ukulele band, another sort of band, a graceful ballerina, drama and attempts at humour and comedy. During the interval, there will be a game of Heads and Tails, so bring a £1 coin, and you might take home a pile of them!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Philip Moore



League of Friends of Kent and Canterbury Hospital (Ash Branch)

Our small committee is now working hard on forthcoming events which we hope you will support.

We are running the next Coffee Morning in Ash Village Hall on Saturday 6th June 10am-12noon, where you will find a variety of stalls, tombola, raffle plus delicious cakes and refreshments! On Saturday 11th July we will be participating in the Ash Carnival Summer Fayre, Ash Recreation Ground 12-4pm where we plan to have a stall and tombola.

Plans are progressing well for the 'Summer Festival & Fair' in the grounds of Canterbury Hospital on Sunday 19th July, 12-4pm. Entry and parking is free, and you will be able to enjoy music, dancing, refreshments and stalls, plus the Grand Draw. The Ash Group will be running two of the children's activities as well as the usual bric-a-brac stall. We now have Grand Draw tickets available at £1/ticket – 1st prize £500 with many other really exciting prizes. To purchase, contact me or committee member or buy one at the coffee morning.

Please do come along and support us at these events. Every penny we raise goes towards supporting patients, staff and visitors to Kent & Canterbury Hospital.

A big project for The League of Friends was to raise £800,000 for new Surface Guided Radiotherapy technology. This advanced technique streamlines radiotherapy treatment, making it faster, safer and more accurate. Thanks to a legacy of over £500,000 the machine was installed at Kent & Canterbury Hospital late last year and we were delighted and humbled to meet Ash resident Kevin Down, the first patient to receive treatment. Seeing him doing so well, makes everything that we do, with your generous support, so very worthwhile. We wish Kevin continued good progress.



In Ash we are always seeking to welcome new members to our small committee. The work is not very time consuming and is extremely rewarding. Please do contact me if you are interested.

Hazel Damiral
01304 772363

**Ash Branch
League of Friends Group**

**The
League +
of Friends**
OF THE KENT &
CANTERBURY HOSPITAL
Charity No: 1155088

Coffee Morning



**Join us for a Coffee Morning at Ash
Village Hall on Saturday 6th June
10am-12 noon. Everyone is welcome for a
browse, coffee and chat.**

Refreshments will include tea,
coffee, soft drinks, bacon rolls &
cakes.

**Bric a brac, books,
puzzles, greetings cards,
homemade preserves,
tombola & a lucky raffle.**

Friends of St Nicholas Church

The Friends Art Exhibition and Sale held over the Bank Holiday weekend (2-4 May) was the 22nd annual 3-day event the Friends have organised and was attended by 905 visitors. The Exhibition was once again sponsored by Rex Cadman and this year the honour of opening it went to local stonemason Carrie Horwood of Cat's Eye Carving.



During the 3 days, enthusiastic visitors were treated to around 500 exhibits including pictures, photos and varied tabletop exhibits including stonemasonry, woodworking and ceramics, etc; and the fabulous café food. The weather behaved itself throughout allowing many to enjoy their tea and cakes, etc outside as well as inside.

We were indebted to Tower Captain Marilyn Barden and her team of bell ringers for providing stewarding over the weekend ensuring the Tower was open again this year. So many were thrilled to be able to climb the Tower and view our lovely village and beyond.

Some 149 exhibits were sold (nearly 30%), which helped to raise the overall profit to about £5000. An amazing amount, which will be used by the Friends to help fund future Parochial Church Council projects helping to maintain the fabric of our lovely historic church and grounds. So many visitors enjoyed the exhibition and were so generous making this another very successful event.

This was only made possible through by the continued help and support of our sponsor; local businesses who advertise in our fundraising literature; the stewards, volunteers and kitchen staff; bakers for their generous donations of so many lovely cakes, etc; the Guides; cleaners; flower arrangers; the setting up and dismantling team; the many visitors; Committee Members and Friends and last but not least all the very talented artists and other exhibitors and anyone else who supported the event. A huge thank you to you all.

Thanks must also go to St Faith's Prep School who provided free parking in their school grounds on Saturday 2nd and the vicar and congregation for vacating the church during Art Ex week.

The committee worked so hard to make this event memorable and successful and I'd like to think we did. We had fun too and would welcome anyone who would like to join us organising future exhibitions and/or other events too. (contact me 813138 or Chris Denby 812049 for details).

Chris Burnside Chairman of the Friends



Working together
for a stronger
Ash Parish

WE NEED YOU



WE CURRENTLY HAVE
FOUR VACANT SEATS



**No prior experience
is necessary**

Just a drive to help improve and
shape the Parish both now and
for future generations.



Make a difference

Help build a stronger, more
connected community and
use your time to make a
real impact.

If you are interested in giving
back to the community by
becoming a Parish Councillor,
please contact the Parish Clerk
for further information on
the process at:



clerk@ashparishcouncil.gov.uk



Find out more about your Parish Council at

www.ashparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ash Heritage Group

We invite you on a 5-mile leisurely guided historical walk along the old Wantsum Channel shoreline on Saturday 13th June.

Assemble at Brookestreet Farmhouse, Cooper Street Drove CT32NP at 10.15am for a 10.30am start where there will be plenty of space for parking plus tea and coffee. We will then walk along or close to the Saxon shoreline to Mullbrey House, Fleet (further tea and coffee!), observing the routes of Roman roads, historical, landscape and geological features as we go.

From there, Ian Chandler will guide us across normally off the beat tracks to Lower Goldstone and the newly opened Calf & a Half micro pub for refreshment.

We will then return via Sandhills to Brookestreet Farmhouse. The walking time will be approximately 1hr 45mins and at least the same amount of time for refreshment and general conviviality!

To register your interest please send your names and contact numbers and detailed directions will be forwarded to you. Well behaved dogs on leads are also welcome.

We look forward to seeing you and please dress appropriately for the weather and terrain.

- ashheritagegroup@gmail.com

Crossword: Our hard-working crossword compiler has taken a well-earned break from compiling clues, so puzzle fiends, you will have to wait until July for your next fix of local history puzzlers. Why not take the opportunity to expand your knowledge and drop into the heritage centre at Ash Village Hall on Saturday morning to meet one of their friendly volunteers.



Answer to May's crossword: Fields, Fêtes & Fun

Across

1. Fruit Show
2. Bunting
6. Cherry
8. Medlar
9. Skittles
10. Float

Down

1. Fete
2. Bat and Trap
3. Chestnut
4. Carnival
5. Blossom
7. Hops

Ash Horticultural Society

Steve Edney and Louise Dowle: Propagation and Sowing Demonstration.

Something of a regular fixture in our schedule, we welcomed Steve Edney (our Patron) and Louise Dowle for an interactive talk that brought our best attendance for some time - people really have a thirst for expert, practical advice. And there was no shortage of that here. An additional feature of the evening was the annual charity Plant Sale. We had four tables of these, plus some early-season produce: rhubarb, leeks and asparagus.

They began with a 'kit list', comprising seed mix, vermiculite, perlite, some seed trays (they favour the smallest ones) and module cell trays; some propagators, the unheated kind. They do not favour the heated kind as they tend to be too hot for anything except exotics, although Gary Bradbury suggested using a plug timer so that the heat comes on intermittently. Steve and Lou do, however, use heat mats, which they feel are more versatile than propagators. When it comes to seed compost, they stressed that it should be sieved, using one with a medium-gauge mesh, to correct for the compaction that usually afflicts it from being stacked on pallets: seedlings need oxygen. Once in the seed tray it should be flattened and tamped down, not too firmly. And don't over-sow; with very small seeds, mixing them with a little sand helps distribute them evenly. Cover with vermiculite, fine then coarser on top. This acts as a mulch, keeping the air/water balance right. Include date of sowing on labels. With bigger seeds such as beans and squashes, multi-purpose compost is fine to use. Be sure to use a fine rose when watering, or soak in a water tray - and warm up the water first!

Steve and Louise don't sow much before April, with the exception of chillies. Plants will catch up once the weather gets warmer. Earlier sowings can result in spindly plants which can't be safely planted outside.

They then moved to the next stage of growing plants: pricking out seedlings. You should handle them by one of the seed leaves, not the stems. Use a fine implement like a stick, a skewer or an old kitchen fork to ease them out of the compost. When they are planted in their new medium, plant them deeply, almost up to the leaves: this makes for sturdier plants, which will not fall over when watered, and they will put out roots from the buried stems. Using module trays with large holes in the bottoms helps when it comes to pushing them out. The compost does not fall through. Watering is done best via a water tray, a mister or a small can with a very fine rose. You can also do foliar feeding, using liquid

fertiliser such as Formulex in the water from a mister. This helps to avoid the problem of excess water retention with peat-free compost.

With cuttings, it is better to take them in the mornings or evenings, out of the strong sun. Water beforehand, eg the night before. They should also be kept in the shade until they are established. When taking them, put them in a plastic bag, to keep them from drying out. Rooting hormone is best in gel form rather than powder. This helps roots to form more quickly and strongly, but it won't make roots form if the cutting has not been done correctly. Cut below a node and pinch off the lower leaves; look for slender stems. Salvias need a bigger, longer cutting - remove any flower buds. They can be cut longitudinally, to make extra plants quickly. With dahlias, basal cuttings can be taken now (late April), and must be solid, not tubular. Tubers can be divided, discarding any that have no neck or shoots emerging. Cut them apart with a good blade - a cheap breadknife will do - and pot them up. The growing mix for cuttings consists of a 50-50 mix of seed compost and perlite. Loam-based compost such as John Innes No. 3 retains moisture, so helps cut down on the need to water.

Cuttings planted around the edge of the pot seem to make roots more quickly, and doing this saves space, if you have a lot of cuttings. Cuttings are an especially useful propagation method for plants such as phlox, in case there are eelworms in the root system - dividing them simply spreads these around. Pelargonium cuttings should not be put in a propagator: their leaves need to have air circulating round them, otherwise they are liable to rot. Hostas will need to be divided - the breadknife will come in handy again - as they outgrow the pot. It's best not to water the pot first: they divide more easily when not wet. Asters can be dealt with in a similar way and will root quite readily. They can be divided at any time during the year, as can any member of the daisy family.

Steve and Lou closed with some recommendations for further reading, referencing books by Jekka McVicar, John Cushnie and the RHS. And then it was time for Steve to present Esther Spanton with her delayed prize from the Spring Show.

Ken Manktelow



Friends of Elmstone and Preston Churches

St Mildred's

Spring Clean - Early May Bank Holiday: On the Friday, Jeremy and Mona Hodgetts did a magnificent job cleaning the ceilings and high walls as far as they could reach. On the Monday, a small team continued cleaning at lower levels, plus the floors and furniture. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Teas and Stalls – Sunday 14th June 2.30-4.30pm: We would like to have some helpers for setting up late morning/early afternoon and clearing up afterwards. We would also welcome assistance with teas and offers of homemade cakes. Please let me know if you can help. 01227 - 722704 or 07783 777854.

Stalls include Pottering About Crafts, Canterbury Bookworms, (Usborne), Craig Makes (delicious cakes and savouries), and Liz Anderson artwork.

Elmstone Church

Village Fete: On Sunday 10th May, Elmstone Meadow was full of people enjoying the village fete. We had a BBQ, plant stall, secondhand books, bric-a-brac and teas and cakes in the church and much more. Despite the cold wind, it was very busy and everyone who came along had a splendid afternoon. The proceeds will be divided equally between Age Concern Sandwich and Friends of Elmstone and Preston Churches.

JN

Happy Hours: The next two dates are Fridays 5th June and 3rd July, from 6.30pm, on Church Meadow, weather permitting, otherwise in the Church. Everyone is welcome.

Our Services for June

- 1st Sunday – 7th June - Holy Communion, Elmstone, 10.30am
- 2nd Sunday – 14th June - Family Service, Preston, 10.30am (With Communion and Baptism)
- 3rd Sunday – 21st June - Holy Communion, Elmstone, 10.30am

Refreshments are normally served after all our morning services.

Elizabeth Timms

Behind the Scenes at The Calf and A Half

The latest addition to Chandler and Dunn has opened to acclaim. The Calf and A Half is a micro pub in an old farm building which was also previously a florist. Catherine, pictured with Sir Roger Gale, shares the story.

What was the inspiration for opening the Calf and Half? *I already had the coffee and burger horsebox, Goldstone Brew, right next door, and the space had been available for a while - I just hadn't really thought about taking it on. Then it clicked that it was the perfect opportunity to grow the business. I thought it could become a great addition to Goldstone Camping and a welcoming place for the local community to get together.*



I thought a farm theme was the perfect fit for the space, so I kept an eye on Facebook Marketplace and eBay for old tractor signs and vintage farming pieces to decorate the walls. I wanted it to feel rustic, welcoming, and in keeping with the surroundings. I've also created a few miniature farming diorama scenes around the building. I've always had an eye for detail, so it was a fun way to add character and personality to the space — even if it did become a bit of procrastination at times.

What can people expect when they visit? *It's such a peaceful atmosphere where you can sit, relax, and really hear the nature around you. We also have our burger van next door, open Friday and Saturday evenings from 6–8pm, serving burgers made with locally sourced beef from Goldstone Butchers. I've tried to keep the drinks selection as local as possible too, so it's a real showcase of the area and local produce.*

Tell us a bit about you *We discovered that my grandad used to buy cows from Chandler and Dunn when he had a butcher's shop in Eastry, so it turns out our families had crossed paths years ago without us even realising. I'm actually a jeweller by trade, and I still do that during the week alongside running the café and burger van*

- Calf and Half opening hours: 4-9pm Fridays and Saturdays. 12-5pm Sunday. Burgers 6-8pm Saturday and Sunday.

Garden Jottings for June

How lovely to see the hedges adorned with masses of May blossom and cow parsley and pink Campion billowing below. Cherry and apple blossom have now vanished the searing northeasterly winds and chill mornings put paid to their beauty. However, the fruit trees seemed to be set for a good harvest and soft fruit beginning to form well.

As we move from Spring suddenly weeds, lawns, hedges and new seedlings go into overdrive. Luckily the longer light evenings are one of the best times to be in the garden even if you have to wait until after work to escape into nature's lush world.

Keep hoeing borders and vegetable plots to keep down weeds. Speedwell, chickweed and goosegrass (Sticky Willy!) all need hand weeding as any root left will regrow. Bindweed will appear now. Keep it down by training it up canes and either rubbing the stems with gloves coated in weedkiller (fabric ones on top of rubber will make this easier) or slip a plastic bag over the cane and weed and spray inside with systemic weedkiller, close up the bag and place an elastic band over the top. When it has died down remove and burn or bin it along with any other brittle roots you may dig up.

Weeds and grass cuttings are quite lush and will make quite a wet a mixture in the compost heap. To rectify, add shredded newspaper, cardboard or egg boxes to it.

Take dead heads from Rhododendrons and Lilac carefully so as not to damage next year's buds forming under the old flower heads. Deadhead roses, taking out a length of stem down to a leaf node below the dead bloom.

House plants such as Azaleas and lemon trees can be stood outside in Summer and indeed many other plants benefit from standing outside especially in the gentle rain showers.

Don't forget that many annuals - Love in a Mist (Nigella), Marigolds, and Nasturtiums will grow on quite quickly to fill in any empty spaces giving extra colour to summer borders so sow some seeds.

Tie in Delphiniums to stakes as they grow taller. Remove central spikes of Delphiniums and Lupins to encourage lower blooms on the stems to develop and bloom.

Plant out tender Dahlia, Fuchsia and Salvia when frost is no longer a threat later in the month. Tulips can be laid out to dry and then cleaned and stored for planting in October. Daffodils and Narcissus are best dug into some spare ground and left so the green tops die down into the bulbs or left in situ in troughs or pots until next year. Some feed is beneficial in either case as this nourishes the bulbs for next Spring's flowers.

You can reuse the old compost but first turn it out and remove old roots and watch out for the C-shaped white grubs of vine weevils. If they are discovered discard altogether.

Plant up pots to follow after Spring displays with Geraniums. Try pink and white as well as red Lobelia. Diascias, Bizzy Lizzies (Impatiens) and small evergreen and variegated plants easily grown from cuttings like Ivy leaved trailing Geraniums. These together with grey leaved white Marguerite, Fuchsia and black, blue Salvia make a long-lasting arrangement. Remember to add crocks to the bottom of pots over the drain holes so the compost does not become waterlogged. Small feet will lift the pot to allow drainage and air to circulate. Old clean compost can be recycled on borders or added to compost heaps.

Plant seeds of biennials Honesty, Canterbury Bell, Sweet Williams, Foxgloves etc Lupins and Hollyhocks can also be grown to replenish stocks as they are not long-lived perennials. Hollyhocks should be checked for the presence of coral spot and sprayed. This virus will weaken the plant and disfigure the leaves. Keep a lookout for Lily beetles which will decimate their foliage and damage the buds. Pick them off and destroy them but careful as they fall upside down and have a black underneath which make them hard to spot. These red beetles make what appears as black excreta but there is where larva grubs hatch out into more beetles. Remove this.

Keep cutting Sweet Peas and remove old seed pods to stimulate more flowers and give a feed fortnightly.

Stake tomatoes and tie into stout canes and remove side shoots feed weekly and water regularly to prevent blossom end rot and split skins. If you don't have a very large vegetable plot tried to utilise as much of the area as possible by intercropping - planting small plants amongst crops which will soon be harvested like new potatoes and will then grow on in to fill the vacated space, eg cauliflowers and sprouts. Other quick growing

salads such as radish and lettuce can be grown beside long stay vegetables so remember to allow for this when planning and planting out. Leeks should be planted out now. Plant courgettes, French and runner beans after lifting potatoes and removing spinach if it is running to seed. Dig new potatoes but make sure they are ready by lifting a few to see if they are large enough. To discourage blackfly on broad beans nip out the tips of the plants or remove them if they are already present, this will send food down to form beans and swell pods rather than making them grow taller.

Place straw or fibre mats around plants to prevent mud splashes. Runners can be taken as they lengthen, pin them to the ground or a small pot to root they can be cut free and potted on to make new plants for next year. Usually plants should be replaced every three to four years.

Pick early soft fruits and gooseberries as they ripen. Lower the height of the mower blades although it is still better to mow twice a week than mow too short so as not to stress the lawn if the weather is hot and dry. This is a good time to give a nitrogen feed if the lawn seems at all pale and sparse. Keep edges neat and tidy, pick up grass clippings and tidy the edges of the border. At the same time enjoy the sights and scents in the evening – Lilac, Wallflower and Bluebells - admittedly in early May as I write as it brings memories of people who also love these sights and places we remember with joy.

*Christine Brown,
President, Ash Horticultural Society*

Stories from the Archives (74)

Volumes from the Vicarage

What do vicars do in their spare time? A question like this might raise a bit of an eyebrow these days. Here in the Canonry Benefice, it would be surprising if the response from the present incumbent wouldn't be something along the lines of "Spare time? *What* spare time?" Being responsible for six active parishes and two more churches besides is certainly not a task for the faint-hearted and any "spare time" probably disappears before it arrives. So - was it always thus? It wasn't ...

Whether the country parson was vicar, rector or whatever, there was a time when a benefice usually equated with a single parish, large or small, and not a group of neighbouring parishes. And the clergyman (it was always a man) not only served only one parish but in many cases had a curate to

provide considerable assistance, sometimes even doing the lion's share of the work. But because of the strange system of patronage, a Georgian clergyman *might* hold more than one parish, not because his valiant efforts were spread rather thinly but because of nepotistic connections which provided advantageous financial benefits. Often, he never even had to visit that other distant church or churches that were nominally "his." A curate would run that place for him but the "absentee clergy" would still receive the tithes and other benefits of the living. It was rather a good life for the second or third son in a family! In Victorian times many clergy were far more conscientious than their 18th century predecessors but often still had the luxury of a curate's help, and could indulge themselves in whatever took their fancy in their "spare time."

At St Nicholas, Ash, there is no doubt which "spare time" activity appealed to some of our vicars. (Actually, he was known as a "perpetual curate" at Ash until 1869 because appointments here were in the gift of the Archbishop, partly a relic of the patronage system already alluded to). As the Regency period blended into the early Victorian years, four consecutive incumbents here - all extremely able men - applied their various interests and skills in the same way. They wrote. And they wrote, and wrote and wrote. From the early 1820s the first of them appears to have laid down a marker for the next three to follow.

Rev'd George Robert Gleig arrived fresh from his busy military career, having served with the Duke of Wellington against the French and across the Atlantic against the United States, where he had helped burn down the White House. Although he took an interest in his parish, the cure of souls appears not to have been at the top of his agenda, administering Holy Communion only a few times each year. He deplored the government's inadequate efforts at alleviating the poverty of his parishioners yet firmly supported the robust application of the law during the tragic "Captain Swing" protests of 1830.

But he wrote! Already an author before he arrived in Ash as a youngish man, in his thirteen years here he produced around a dozen works, a mixture of fiction and non-fiction. Novels (some based on his parishioners' lives and causing local anger and distress) were mixed with military and political biographies, campaigns of recent wars, autobiographical experiences and heavy, biblical tomes. Many of his works were of two, three or four volumes, often running to over a thousand pages in all and after he left Ash in 1834 for the chaplaincy of the Chelsea Hospital, his pen remained busy. More books followed, often of a combined military and religious flavour until he was appointed Chaplain-General of the Forces, the most senior military clergyman in the country. And still he wrote, until by the

end of his life he had churned out nearly 50 books, not counting multi-volumed works.

His successor was a “new broom sweeps clean.” Rev’d Charles Forster was a very conscientious incumbent here but immediately upset our churchwardens by insisting that a statue of his late uncle, the recently deceased Bishop of Limerick, should be erected in our church! He also collected funds nationwide for another to be raised in Limerick Cathedral and, while still here at Ash, set about producing a 500 page two-volumed biography of his uncle: *The Life of John Jebb, DD, FRS, Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe*. One wonders if anyone in Ash read it?

He soon turned to other gripping topics. How about *Mahometanism Unveiled: an Enquiry in which the Arch-Heresy, its Diffusion and Continuance are examined on a new Principle, tending to confirm the Evidences, and aid the Christian faith.*” One reviewer thought “the reader will find the subject of the Ishmaelitis descent of the Arabian treated in a convincing manner in Mr Forster’s learned and valuable work.” Other titles of a similar ilk followed. His yet unborn grandson, the novelist E.M. Forster, thought them all worthless because grandfather simply didn’t know what he was talking about.

Who replaced Forster at Ash in 1838? *Another* Irish nephew of the Bishop, also named John Jebb! The Archbishop of Canterbury, who had also placed Forster here, must have thought his cousin Jebb another good idea. It wasn’t. Jebb’s wife certainly didn’t think so and hauled him away after about a month, probably the shortest-lived incumbency in the history of this parish. But he went on to great things, with lifelong links to both Hereford and Lichfield cathedrals and became one of the country’s leading authorities on the Anglican choral tradition, playing a major part in the English choral revival of the times. The 1840s saw several works produced by Jebb and if anyone assumed *The Choral Service of the United Church of England and Ireland, being an Inquiry into the Liturgical System of the Cathedral and Collegiate Foundations of the Anglican Communion* would never, ever have been a best-seller, they’d be wrong. It was! And tucked away in the Order of Service at our recent benefice evensong in Knowlton’s beautiful church, whose name do we see under the Responses? “Jebb/Lichfield”! Sadly, his tenure at Ash was so brief it has disappeared from most accounts of his life. But we know.

The next chap in our pulpit must be considered the most able incumbent here during the 19th century. Once the Archbishop had marked his card he was always going to be a high flyer, the parish of Ash having by now acquired the epithet of “the stepping stone.” Francis Russell Nixon was well

loved here, whether because of - or despite - his attractive, jet black ringlets! After only four years at Ash he was consecrated as the first Bishop of Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania to us) but, before he sailed, his monumental work of nearly 700 pages was nearly ready for the printer: *Lectures - Historical, Doctrinal and Practical, on the Catechism of the Church of England*. Was there something in the water at Ash? And would the reader expect this heavy tome with a catchy title to have gone to six full reprints? Well, it did – and when the second printing was hurriedly ordered by his publishers to meet increasing demand, the author wrote from Down Under to the churchwardens at Ash, formally foregoing all royalties and insisting the proceeds of this edition should be applied to the costs of improving and beautifying St Nicholas' church; and there were sufficient monies also to fund the erection of a brand new church out at Ware. How many churches in England have been planned and built entirely from the proceeds of a best-selling book and the generosity of its author? For over a century Westmarsh and Ware were served by this daughter church which, for many decades, formed a separate parish.

Nixon was also a very talented artist, an attribute he inherited from his father, and in Tasmania he published and illustrated a wonderful book describing the long voyage he took to the outermost little islands of his new diocese in the Bass Strait, *The Cruise of the "Beacon."* His turbulent 20 years in Tasmania were beautifully described in his second wife's book *Pioneer Bishop in Van Dieman's Land*.

Not all our vicars published books but a few of the later Victorians produced a smattering. Rev'd Henry Mackarness, however, who was here from 1857 to 1868, left it all to his wife, a world famous novelist who produced over 40 children's stories, and to his father-in-law James R. Planche, author of over two dozen works of non-fiction, including his monumental history of Ash and his wonderful memoirs, and an even larger number of West End plays. Between the early 19th and the early 20th centuries the clergy at Ash published around 70 books and numerous articles and pamphlets, with the Mackarness family connection adding perhaps another 100. Not a bad library; indeed it's a remarkable record. This writer has accumulated a few of them and works by Gleig, Forster, Nixon, Norah Nixon, Planche and Mrs Mackarness can be found in the Ash Heritage Centre.

One wonders whether "spare time" will ever allow further titles to be added to this long list.

Peter Ewart

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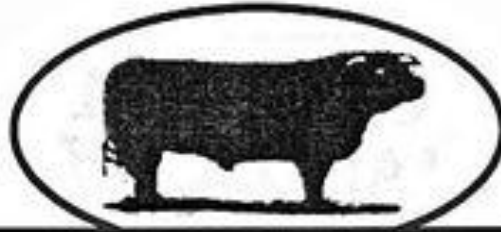
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