ASH WITH WESTMARSH
PARISH MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2026
£1



The Canonry Benefice of

Ash – Chillenden – Elmstone – Goodnestone

Nonington – Preston – Stourmouth

Useful Contacts

Service	Organisation/Name	Contact
Emergencies	Gas Emergency (24hrs)	0800 111 999
999	UK Power Networks (24hrs)	105
	Water Leak Line (24hrs)	0800 820 999
Community		
	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
Healthcare	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
Education	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 October Magazine

Inside this issue

What's On	4
Church Services	6
Parish Letter	8
Public Meeting Called	9
Onlooker	12
Darts Marathon Success	15
Memories of Jean Jones	17
Clubs and Societies	21
A Thorny Issue	32
Garden Jottings	33
Stories from the Archives	37

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

Fieldfare and Redwing in a hawthorn hedge, with Redwing and Song Thrush in flight.
By Pat Coles.

Contacts

Clergy
Reverend Caroline Turvey
01304 812296
canonryvicar@gmail.com
Churchwarden
James Pigott
ashchurchwarden@gmail.com

Benefice Administration
Beth Barber
thecanonrybenefice@gmail.com

Share Your News

Email copy for the next magazine edition by **Thursday 15th October** 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.

What's On

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH Welcome Space is holding a fundraiser for MacMillan Cancer on Thursday 1st October. Head along for cakes for sale and a raffle from 11am - 2pm.

A DEMENTIA ROADSHOW will support for carers and people living with dementia will be held at St George's Church, Deal, on Friday 2nd October. 10am-1pm. See page ** for details.

HAPPY HOUR at Elmstone Church (or Church Meadow if the weather is fine) Friday 2nd October from 6.30pm. For more Elmstone news, see page 27.

ASH TODDLER GROUP host the community coffee morning at Ash Village Hall on Saturday 3rd October from 10am-noon. See page 22.

ASH WI meet 8th October to hear from Terry Flinn of the Air Ambulance Charity Kent, Surry and Sussex. 1.30pm Ash Village Hall.

SANDWICH HISTORY SOCIETY lecture 8th October: The Wrong Side of Independence: Loyalists and the American Revolution. Sandwich Guildhall, 6.30pm. £5 non-members. See page 29.

THE FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH Shuffleboard Night is on Saturday 10th October, 6.30–10.30pm. See poster, page 11, for details.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS meet at Ash Village Hall on October 13th and 27th from 2-4pm for games, conversation and companionship.

THE ASH VILLAGE HALL BIG QUIZ is on October 17th for your chance to prove you're the smartest team in the village. See pages 14 and 16.

THE FINAL CHURCHYARD BASH OF 2026. Saturday 19th October. 9am-noon at St Nicholas Church, Ash. See page 7.

ASH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM Thursday 22nd October at 7.15pm at Ash Village Hall followed by a talk by Joe Vary: Gardening for a better future at 7.30pm.

ASH RFC host a Halloween Party on Saturday 31st October at the pavilion, Ash Recreation Ground. 4pm-6pm minis and juniors, 7pm onwards, adults. Prizes for fancy dress and games to play. See their Facebook page for more details.

Regulars

Baby Rhyme Time – Ash Library. Mondays from noon-12.30pm. Suitable for ages 0-4 years. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

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 Welcome Space – Thursday 11am-2pm. There is free tea/coffee and cakes. Also, a mug of 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.

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

Church Services for October

Sunday 4th October
Holy Communion 9.00 Holy Cross, Goodnestone
Holy Communion 10.30 Elmstone Church
Family Worship 10.30 St. Nicholas, Ash
Holy Communion 10.30 St. Mary's Nonington

Sunday 11th October
Holy Communion 9.00 All Saints, Chillenden
Holy Communion 10.30 St. Nicholas, Ash
Family Service with Communion 10.30 St Mildred's, Preston
Breakfast Church 9.30 St. Mary's Nonington

Sunday 18th October
Holy Communion 9.00 Holy Cross, Goodnestone
Holy Communion 10.30 Elmstone Church
Holy Communion 10.30 St. Nicholas, Ash

Sunday 25th October
Holy Communion 9.00 All Saints, Chillenden
Holy Communion 10.30 St. Nicholas, Ash

Dates for the diary:
Children's Light Party Saturday 31st October (afternoon), St Nicholas Ash
All Souls Service Sunday 1st November 4pm, St Nicholas Ash

Porchlight will be coming to Goodnestone and Ash on Sunday 4th October. Their representative, Mim Oliver will be preaching and highlighting the plight of the homeless in Canterbury and the surrounding areas. Please come and support this wonderful charity.

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.

Join the Churchyard Bash!

The annual cut of the lower part of the churchyard happened in September and on 10th October 9am-12pm we will be raking and moving the grass. If you would like to come and help we would be grateful, if coming please bring a rake. Drinks and biscuits will be provided.

The bash in October will be the last this year and we will meet again in 2027.

Dates for 2027, 2nd Saturday of the month from March to October 9am-12pm. March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th and October 9th.

St Nicholas PCC are responsible for Ash Parish churchyard which is managed by volunteers and one paid employee to provide a place of tranquillity and peace for all, whether you are coming to care for a grave, coming to just sit and enjoy God's world or walking through with your dog.

We try and manage the space for wildlife as well as people.
If you would like to help to manage this beautiful green space within our village.

Please come along you are always welcome and there are always jobs to do whether it is mowing, clearing drains, moving branches to our dead wood hedges or tiding graves that are not cared for by family.

Jacqueline Wilkinson



Parish Letter

Here we are in October, the summer is behind us, the corn harvest is gathered in, perhaps the earliest ever, and the drought conditions have not been kind to farmers with yields well down and winter food rations for livestock having to be fed to animals now. Our thoughts go out to the farming community, for what affects them now will affect us later. We depend on them.

However, in the meantime, this gives us a chance to reflect on our beautiful countryside, the birds, the butterflies, the animals, the plants, trees and how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful world which we tend to take for granted most of the time.

We need to use all our senses, otherwise we can miss so much about nature around us. This urges us to notice the pattern that reminds us of God's order, and the simple joy of being surrounded by living creatures. We live in an increasingly fragile world and if we are not careful we could lose much of these delights that are part of our countryside.

In our busy lives, it is easy to forget how much life's beauty depends on a small chorus of song we rarely notice until it is gone. I know this silence can be startling. Without birds' songs, the morning feels poorer; without the quick glimpses – on hedges, in the garden, on the rooftops, and in the trees – our eyes and hearts grow sadder. We may hear but do we listen?

Recently we acquired an App for our phone which could identify each bird song. It was amazing to learn of the birds in our garden that we had not even seen, nor knew they lived nearby. This then set us a challenge to find the bird once the song had been identified. Apart from the more common birds, we managed to identify several rarer ones over a short period of time and these included a Redstart, Garden Warbler, Firecrest, and a Black Cap. To suddenly learn that these birds were in our garden, was a real delight.

So we miss more than sound. We miss the call that nudges us to notice the things about us, the pattern that reminds us of God's order, and the simple joy of being surrounded by living creatures. We are called to seek and we shall find; to listen and we will understand; to care and to cherish; to keep and to hand on to the next generation a better world than we found.

With the harvest gathered in and as the days grow shorter, we give thanks for all God's gifts. May we always fully appreciate them in all their beauty so that our countryside remains a place of beauty and wonder.

Rev. Nigel Hale

Public Meeting Planned

Plans are being made for a public meeting to discuss concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime in Ash, following issues raised by residents with Ash Parish Council.

Residents have reported a range of incidents over the summer, including problems around the recreation ground, theft, criminal damage – including incidents at St Nicholas Church – street drinking, shoplifting and other anti-social behaviour. Concern was expressed not only about individual incidents but about their cumulative impact on residents and village life.

Ash Parish Council has agreed to request a public meeting with the Kent Police Community Support Unit, providing an opportunity for residents to discuss their experiences and concerns directly.

The council is encouraging residents to report all incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour to Kent Police, even where they may appear relatively minor. Reporting helps to build an accurate picture of the frequency and nature of incidents and provides evidence to support future action.

Further details of the public meeting will be shared once arrangements have been confirmed.

Solar Farm Public Inquiry Held

The public inquiry into plans for a large solar farm at Goshall Valley, between Ash and Richborough, got under way on 15 September, beginning the latest stage in a planning process which has now been running for several years.

Little South Clean Energy Ltd, part of Statkraft, is appealing against Dover District Council's refusal of planning permission for the development. The scheme would cover around 83 hectares – approximately 205 acres – of countryside and farmland and have a generating capacity of up to 49.9MW.

The application was refused by Dover District Council's Planning Committee in November 2025. Councillors voted unanimously against the

scheme, with its potential impact on the setting of the nationally important Roman remains at Richborough among the central issues in the decision.

Those issues featured prominently during the opening days of the inquiry. Evidence in the first week included from Sir Roger Gale MP, Alison Cummings, Dover District Council's Heritage Officer, and Ben Found, Kent County Council Archaeologist.
A series of site visits were also planned, giving the Planning Inspector an opportunity to see the proposed development area and its relationship with Ash, Richborough and the surrounding countryside first-hand.

The inquiry is being conducted by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State and was scheduled to continue until 25 September. A date for a decision had not been announced as the magazine went to press.

Scouts Out and About in Ash

Keep an eye out for some of Ash's younger residents lending a hand around the village over the coming months.

Members of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be getting out and about this term to take part in a range of community activities, including litter picking and helping to look after the village.

The Beavers have already been busy, recently taking part in a litter pick around Ash including Pound Corner.

Help Needed for Parish Magazine

Could you spare an hour to help the friendly team who bundle up the parish magazine for distribution each month?
If you can help, please contact Rebecca Smith at 07443 605873 or email rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com

Come to the Friends'

Shuffleboard Night

Saturday 10th October 2026

6:30pm – 10.30pm in Ash Village Hall

Doors open at 6.30 pm (not before) for an explanation and practice, with a prompt start at 7.00pm

A fun evening for all the family

Tickets

from Committee Members or Premier/Poparound

£12 Adults | £6 Children (ages 7–12)

Hot supper included • Lots of prizes!

A family-friendly event so bring your kids (7+) along

Make up a team of three to compete

A reasonably priced bar will sell wines, beers and soft drinks



Organised by the Friends of St Nicholas Church, Ash

For information and tickets

01304 813138 / 812049

Onlooker

September parish council meeting update.

The Parish Council reconvened in September following the summer break. Councillors are refreshed and ready for the months ahead, but the Council still has four vacancies. Every resident has skills that can benefit our community. If you can spare a couple of hours a month and would like to help shape Ash's future, please contact clerk@ashparishcouncil.gov.uk

Public Contributions

Residents raised concerns about the impact of anti-social behaviour in the village:

- One resident reported significant disruption to family life caused by ongoing issues at the recreation ground.
- Another highlighted a rise in theft, criminal damage (including incidents at St Nicholas Church), street drinking, shoplifting and general anti-social behaviour. While each incident may be isolated, the frequency and cumulative effect are impacting the quality of life for many residents.

The council acknowledged that the volume of issues over the summer has been upsetting, frustrating, and has required considerable council time and public funds. It was resolved to request a public meeting with the Kent Police Community Support Unit so residents can directly share the impact these incidents are having.

The council emphasises that all criminal and anti-social behaviour must be reported to Kent Police, no matter how small it may seem. Reporting builds the evidence needed for action.

Guilton Bus Shelter
The Guilton bus shelter was destroyed in a vehicle collision in August and will need to be rebuilt on a like-for-like basis.

Play Area 2
The new play area has been a great success, with many families enjoying the equipment throughout the summer. Snagging and vandalism issues are being addressed with the supplier. Users are reminded to treat the Recreation Ground and play equipment with respect to ensure safety and enjoyment for everyone.

Planning
Four planning applications were reviewed for Brooke House, Ship House and land east of Guston Elms.

Dover District Council Report

Kearsney Abbey A new £155,000 facility has opened, featuring a large multi-play unit with slides, tunnels, climbing walls, net seating and a fireman's pole.

The council noted the removal of two dilapidated garages behind School Road and requested an update on plans for the remaining garages and surrounding land.

Kent Police
PC Bowler's August report has been published on the Parish Council Facebook page.

Kent County Council
Apologies were received from Cllr Evans.

Next Meeting
The next Full Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 1st October.

Ash Village Advent 2026

Volunteers are needed to help out at this year's Tractor Parade on November 29th. Marshalls and people to shake buckets are particularly needed.

There are also plans for festive stalls in the central car park during the event.

If you would like to know more please
email AshVillageAdvent@gmail.com to get involved

This year fund raising will support three charities: Porchlight – working with people experiencing homelessness, CALM - suicide prevention and the Deal Foodbank.

Rebecca, Karen, Christine, Andy, Steve & Louise

Village Hall Big Quiz

Get ready to put your thinking caps on! The popular Ash Village Hall Big Quiz is back! Join us on October 17th for your chance to prove you're the smartest team in the village.

Our resident quizmaster, the one and only Mark Towlson, will be ready with a new batch of mind-bending questions that are guaranteed to challenge and entertain.

Get your team of up to eight people together, and don't forget to bring your own drinks, glasses, and supper. It's a fantastic evening out that also helps to support YOUR Village Hall.

Spaces are limited, so book your table now for £6 per person to avoid disappointment! Contact Tony Jones on 07808 934482, or email hazel.tony1@gmail.com

Chequer Inn Ash Society

Become a Member

Our **Open Community Share Offer**, launched in September, is now underway and we're inviting more people in Ash and the surrounding area to become members of the Chequer Inn Ash Society (CIAS).

In 2018, the village came together to raise the funds needed for CIAS to purchase the Chequer Inn building and garden. Today, the pub business is run by professional tenants, while CIAS remains responsible for the Grade II listed building and its long-term future.

Ash has grown considerably since 2018, with many new residents now calling the village home. Our Open Community Share Offer provides an opportunity for those who weren't involved originally to join CIAS and have a voice in the Society's future.

Shares are **£100 each**, with a maximum investment of £10,000. Every member has **one vote**, regardless of how many shares they hold. The offer currently has no closing date. If you'd like to find out more about becoming a member, including full details of the Share Offer, please visit chequerinnashsociety.co.uk. Also please see our ad for QR code.

We'd love to welcome more members from across our growing Ash community.

The CIAS Committee

Chequer Challengers Darts Marathon



Ash showed its generous spirit as the village rallied behind the Macmillan Darts Marathon, held at The Chequer Inn on Saturday 12th September.

The challenge was simple but mighty: 12 hours of darts or 100,000 points on the board all to raise vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thanks to the determination of the team and the steady stream of supporters, an impressive 70,977 points were scored during 12 hours at the oche.

Congratulations to the Chequer Inn Challengers Team: Tony and Julie Rake, Karen Whitehead, Garry Huse and Mark and Louise Venny, who kept spirits high, scores added and darts flying from morning to night.

At the time of writing, the Ash event has raised a £1,546.30 for Macmillan Cancer Support, with donations still coming in.

Thanks to Ian and Kim at The Chequer Inn for hosting the event and Sir Roger Gale MP, pictured with the Chequer Inn Challengers, and his wife Suzy, who came along to show their support for the team and the cause.

THE BIG HALL QUIZ



SAT 17TH OCT

7PM FOR 7:30PM START

£6 PER PERSON

PLUS GRAND RAFFLE

IN AID OF VILLAGE HALL FUNDS

ASH VILLAGE HALL, QUEEN'S ROAD, ASH

To book a table (8 max)
contact Tony Jones
07808 934482 hazel.tony1@gmail.com

Bring your own drinks/glasses and your supper
for yet another excellent evening out
supporting YOUR Village Hall.

Memories of Jean Jones

Jean spent her life caring. From her days as a student nurse, wife, mother, grandmother, District Nursing Sister in Ash, Sandwich and surrounding practices, 18 years volunteering at the Pilgrims Hospice and a wonderful friend to so many, she was indeed, a very special person.

Megs met Jean through nurse training. She recalled: “Life training as a nurse in1961 was very different. I was the set below Jeanie and we met at the Nurses Home Owlstone Croft which was just like a strict boarding school but she looked after me to make sure I knew what I was doing and so began a long friendship.

“Eventually we moved out of the home, she to Clarendon Street and me to Richmond Road. But the two households have kept up throughout the years. Student nurses in Cambridge at that time had wonderful social life. I remember her wedding and the Richmond Road girls arrived dressed up to the nines in big hats.

“A wonderful friend so many happy memories, playing mixed hockey on Parker’s Piece in the snow or tennis matches which seems like yesterday today. I remember a wonderful caring nurse and friend who went the extra mile to look after everyone.”

David Greaves worked with Jean when the District Nursing team was based at the Eastry Surgery. He recalled: “Jean always stood out with her 'can do' attitude to the complexities of patient care in the community.



“One colleague put it to me that Jean often had assessed a situation, and organised the action plan before the doctor arrived on the scene. All the doctor had to do was follow her instructions!

“On one occasion, I was called to visit a distressed patient after surgery one Friday evening. When I arrived at the house I was surprised to find Jean there, but not in uniform. She was clearly dressed to go out to a posh function, maybe from memory she was dressed in a ball gown. Her priority, as ever, was the welfare of her patient, so she had come back to see that all was well 'after

hours'. This was typical of Jean's commitment and dedication to her patient and to her nursing profession. Jean always went above and beyond the call of duty."

His memories are shared by Dr Alastair Carnegie: "Jean was a truly valuable colleague. In those wonderful days when we used to look after our own patients at nights and weekends it was genuinely comforting to know that Jean was the District Nurse on duty. She had an air of confidence and competence (both fully justified) that was reassuring to us GPs and of course our patients. She never complained or moaned but always just "rolled her sleeves up" and got on with it. When she saw a mutual patient more often than not she would have some strategy requiring my intervention or agreement and absolutely always I simply did what she suggested because I instinctively knew she would be right. All the local GPs enjoyed working with her and appreciated her nursing skills, common sense and indeed her support and friendship. I can't believe they make them like that anymore."

Jean was also remembered fondly by fellow nurses Lizzie Phillips, Sheila Baker and Eileen Smith. Eileen said: "A lovely person, very kind hearted and a brilliant nurse who was totally unstinting in the care of her patients. She was always there to help her colleagues with any problem. She had such a very generous heart and I am privileged to have known her."

Jean was on the committee of Ash Tennis Club, (where her cakes are much missed!), and a founder member of Silver Cycling. Friend, Sarah Miller, said: "I recall as though it was yesterday, despite it being back in 2002, that 'Silver Cycling' was established. Encouraged by Lyn Laslett and Anna Hodge, our inaugural ride took place on January 9th that year. Lyn and I rode through icy puddles and met Jean and Rina Ledger at the Black Pig (they arrived by car!) but it was here that we arranged the future of the club and Jean became a very vital member. We branched out to away days and even away nights. Jean organised three very successful away times in university rooms at Cambridge and was quite literally the life and soul of the party. Her enthusiasm, energy and humour was boundless. We all miss her dreadfully, but it was great to have her on board (or on a bicycle!)"

Ann Talbert remembered Jean's commitment to St Nicholas Church, adding: "Jean was a very kind and caring lady with huge amounts of

energy which she channelled into helping others. Nothing was too much trouble for her."

Jean was a committed supporter of Pilgrims Hospices, as Robert Hudson remembers: "Just when you'd thought you'd safely filled a Pilgrims Hospices box with loose change, Jean would hove to and kindly supply you with an empty one! Sadly missed by so many in so many ways,"

Hospice Services Manager, Sam Churchyard, said: "For an incredible 18 years, Jean dedicated her time, energy and heart to Pilgrims Hospices Canterbury. She loved everything about Pilgrims and embodied the values of kindness, compassion and service in everything she did.

My own memories of Jean are countless. More often than not, Jean would already be at work before I arrived. I'd walk through the door to be greeted with her familiar smile and sarcasm of, "Afternoon Mr Churchyard, can I get you a coffee?" It was a simple gesture, but one that perfectly summed up Jean's caring nature. She always put others first.



Jean wasn't just a volunteer; she was a friend to so many. We could spend hours chatting about rugby, while Jean proudly told me stories about her grandchildren, their schools and their exploits at local rugby clubs. Her love for her family shone through every conversation.

Jean was undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with. She was determined, fiercely loyal, and utterly dedicated to helping Pilgrims Hospices succeed. She cared deeply about the work we do, and her contribution over nearly two decades has left an indelible mark on our organisation.

Most importantly, Jean was one of a kind. The hospice feels a little quieter without her, and we will miss her enormously. On behalf of everyone at Pilgrims Hospices, thank you, Jean, for your unwavering commitment, your kindness and your friendship. We are privileged to have known you and grateful for everything you gave to our hospice family.

Rest in peace, lovely Jean Jones. You truly were one in a million."

SHARE OFFER NOW OPEN!

CHEQUER INN ASH SOCIETY
OPEN SHARE OFFER
Buy a Share – Become a Member

Buy Shares in

The Chequer Inn Ash Society

Help secure the future of the
historic building and gardens of

The Chequer Inn

Community-owned since 2018

BUY SHARES TODAY!

By buying shares you become a member of the
Chequer Inn Ash Society - visit our website for further information

CHEQUER INN ASH SOCIETY CIAS

www.chequerinnashsociety.co.uk

Please note: The Chequer Inn Ash Society (CIAS) owns this grade II listed building, and garden, and leases the property to professional tenants to run the pub business. Buying shares in CIAS does not mean buying into the business.

Power to Change · LOTTO · COMMUNITY FUND · KENT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION · REACH · MORE THAN A PUB

Ash Bowling Club

News from the Clubhouse

Well, we've had a packed last month…

There was a lot of catching up on friendly matches as we approached the end of the outdoor season and our short mat indoor bowlers have continued with their games on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Colin Marsh & Alan Norris tournaments that took place in the rain and sunshine but were both great afternoon's and thoroughly enjoyable. We hosted the Ash Memorial Open Mixed Triples Tournament for its second year with a fantastic 20 teams entered. Our Outdoor Club Competitions drew to a close with some great battles on Finals weekend (18th and 20th September). Well done to everyone who took part, and a massive pat on the back for those who won.

As always, a very special thank-you to those members who help with preparing the green, catering, bar, collecting monies and raffle and to all those whose efforts behind the scenes contribute to the success of all our events. Thanks also to those who support us by coming to watch - we really do value your support.

Our outdoor season has now ended, but of-course our indoor short mat continues right through the winter. There are organised games on a Monday and Wednesday 1.30-3.30pm and a Thursday 7-9pm. We also have Friday night social bowls from 5pm - do come and have a go and also join us for a drink afterwards.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to see details of our upcoming social events. Our next event is a Quiz on October 24th. If you would like to come along then please do drop us a line to save your place - secretary.ashbowlsclub@gmail.com

Roy Allen

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 Baby & Toddler Group



Coffee Morning 3rd October

ASH VILLAGE HALL
10 AM - 12 PM

TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE
BACON ROLLS
RAFFLE
CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

Ash Wildlife Friendly Village

Citizen Science Month

Throughout August, residents were encouraged to look a little more closely at the wildlife around them as part of our Citizen Science Month – and the results provide a fascinating snapshot of just how much nature surrounds us.

We collected observations in two ways. Our iNaturalist project received 113 observations between 1 and 31 August, covering 79 different species and wildlife groups. Alongside these, 48 reports were submitted through an online form, containing sightings of birds, mammals, insects, amphibians, plants and other wildlife.

Wildlife across the parish

One of the most encouraging findings was the geographical spread of records. Observations came from gardens and streets across the village as well as farmland, orchards, hedgerows and other green spaces from Chequer Lane to Cooper Street, Langdon Avenue to School Road together with areas around Guilton Farm, Europa Nursery, Little East Street Farm and Cop Street Road.

Birds ranged from familiar garden visitors such as robins, blackbirds, blue tits, great tits, wrens, house sparrows and goldfinches to kestrels, buzzards and a sparrowhawk. Both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were reported, while swallows and house martins were seen feeding over fields and gardens. Two swifts were also reported on 15th August, as summer began to move towards the autumn migration period.

Mammal sightings included Red Foxes, Hedgehogs, Badgers, bats, Grey Squirrels, rabbits and a Common Shrew. One particularly lovely report described five hedgehogs sharing a garden, including a juvenile estimated by the observer to be around eight weeks old. Elsewhere, two young badgers were seen moving from a field near Durlock Road towards the orchards.

A good month for insects

Insects provided the greatest variety among the iNaturalist records, accounting for 60 of its 113 observations.

Butterflies included Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Peacock, Holly Blue, Common Blue and several of the familiar whites. Hummingbird

Hawkmoths were a recurring feature across both recording systems. Other striking moth records included Elephant Hawkmoth, Jersey Tiger and Red Underwing.

Bees, hoverflies and other pollinators were also widely reported, including Buff-tailed and Common Carder Bumblebees, Honey Bees and the impressive Hornet Mimic Hoverfly.

One resident, however, specifically commented that they had noticed fewer bees and wasps than usual and no miner bees in their garden this year.

There were some less conspicuous finds too. Common Frogs were recorded, while a Common Lizard was seen drinking from a shallow dish deliberately left out for wildlife.

Among the more unusual-looking iNaturalist finds was a European Firebug at Ash Village Hall on 26 August, alongside records ranging from shield bugs and a Southern Oak Bush-cricket to spiders, snails, fungi and even a soil centipede.

More than a list of species

Some of the most interesting submissions recorded behaviour rather than simply identifying wildlife.

Residents reported fledgling birds, courtship, nesting-material collection, birds feeding on fruit and seeds, woodpeckers calling and drumming, birds of prey hunting and House Martins swooping down to drink from a wildlife pond.

A detailed survey of a Cop Street Road hedgerow also recorded the variety of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowering plants it supports, illustrating the importance of recording habitats as well as individual species.

Taken together, the two sources paint a wonderfully varied picture of wildlife in Ash during a single summer month. They also show that citizen science does not require specialist knowledge or a trip to a nature reserve. A garden, hedgerow, field, village street – or even a shallow dish of water – can provide something worth noticing.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to look, photograph, identify and report what they found. Every record helps us build a better picture of the wildlife with which we share our parish.

Rebecca Smith



DISCOVER LOCAL SUPPORT FOR CARERS AND PEOPLE LIVING WTIH DEMENTIA

Join us to explore the range of support available in your community to help improve the lives of carers and those living with dementia.

Meet many local organisations offering advice, activities and practical support tailored to your needs.

Dementia & Me · Dementia Friends · Kent Police · Stilwell & Singleton Solicitors · Bright Shadow · Alzheimer's Society · HI Kent · Visiting Angels · WeKare · Lifeline365 · Kent Community Wardens · Dover District Council · Kent Fire & Rescue Service · Music Well Being

Ash Horticultural Society

Autumn Show

Despite the summer heatwave (remember that?) members managed to enter produce for most classes for the show which took place on Saturday 19th September.

The judge reported: “Your exhibits were very good. Your members should be patting themselves on the back producing such good plants.”

Lots of entries for the rudest vegetable- mostly resembling parts of the male anatomy, but the winners, the Dunn family, took us in quite another direction. Their ‘interesting’ potato immediately went on display at the farm’s micro pub, The Calf and A Half.

The tables were weight-tested with the four biggest pumpkins entered - won, not surprisingly, by Ash Wildlife Friendly Village group, who started this interest.

For the first time we saw entries of cucamelons (sort of miniature gherkin- great with gin I am told) and quince (like huge hairy pears), as well as repeat offenders, bunches of grapes.

Several people entered the show for the first time and were successful. The most points as a first time entrant had only just joined the society. Remember the Spring Show on March 20th - it could be you!

Results

Evelyn Rumley Cup (best first time entrant) - **Janet Holdcroft**
George Hill Cup (best vegetable) - **Gary Bradbury** for his giant leeks
John Beer Cup (best dressed onions) **Ray Gambrell**
Society Cup (best fruit) **Liz Rath**
White Cup (best roses) **Ray Gambrell**
Bates Cup (best flower) **Sue Marston**
Charles Petley Rose Bowl (best floral arrangements) **Christine Brown**
The Salutation Cup (best dahlia) **Jan Giles**
Photography Cup **Steve Edney**
Nina Vallack Award (best cookery) **Malcolm Barr**
Jean Grugeon Award (best pot plant) **Jan Giles**
Open Challenge Cup (most points in show) **Liz Rath** 62 points, Gary Bradbury 50 points, Helen Higginson 19 points, Jan Giles 17 points.

Liz Rath

Friends of Elmstone and Preston Churches

St Mildred's

Family Service – September: This service was taken by Stefan Thomas, the Area Dean, Eastbridge. Unfortunately, there were no children present due to other commitments. However, Penny Cornet gave out the height results of the sunflowers grown by them during the Summer.

Elmstone Church

Harvest Service Sunday 20th September. There will be a report in the November issue.

Happy Hours. The next two dates are Fridays 2nd October and 6th November, from 6.30pm**,** on Church Meadow, weather and light permitting, otherwise in the Church. Everyone is welcome.

Concert - Friday 18th December, 5.30pm. We are pleased to advise a return visit by Lees Court. Please make a note of the date and time for this excellent event.

Our Services for October
1st Sunday – 4th October - Holy Communion, Elmstone, 10.30am
2nd Sunday – 11th October - Family Service, Preston, 10.30am
3rd Sunday – 18th October - Elmstone, 10.30am

Refreshments are normally served after all our morning services.

Elizabeth Timms

Preston, Elmstone & Stourmouth Horticultural Society

Well, what a summer we have had! A real challenge for everyone, including us gardeners. I think it has brought to the forefront of everyone's' mind the changing climate we are facing and its associated challenges.

The society has had a busy summer which included visiting a couple of our members' gardens in West Stourmouth. So interesting to see the contrasts between gardens of very different ages and styles, but a lovely pleasant evening, rounded off with Pimm's and nibbles in one of the

gardens as the sun set. (many thanks to the garden owners for allowing this to happen)

We also welcomed Jane Scotchmer who spoke to us about the use of paths in both art and garden design. It was a fascinating insight into the use of various techniques to 'paint a picture' with your garden. As usual this was followed with tea and coffee, biscuits and chat!

We had a visit to Doddington Place Gardens. This included an excellent guided tour with Lucy the head gardener whose enthusiasm for the garden, gardening in general, and gardening for the future shone through. As you would now expect from us, this was followed by a cream tea on the lawns!

On 23rd October we will be visited by the freelance biologist and educator, Clive Nuttman, of Monkton Nature Reserve. He will speak to us about 'the little things that run the world'. Clive has spoken to us several times before and is always interesting. This looks to be no different, giving us a fascinating insight into the world of invertebrates and our reliance on them. Of course, followed by tea and coffee, biscuits and chat!

Our last meeting before Christmas is on 25th November when we will be joined by Sophie Leetheart from the cutting garden 'Black Knight'. A freelance florist of 30years, she will give a talk on the horticultural elements of Christmas entitled 'Myrrh, Mistletoe & Mischief'. This will be followed by seasonal refreshments!

As you can tell, we have a very busy and varied programme. So, whether you have an acre of garden, a window box, or just an interest in gardening, a warm welcome awaits you every 4th Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at Preston village hall. Why not come and join us?

Alison Mortley, Chair

The Arts Society Sandwich

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Guildhall for another season of fascinating lectures, lively company and a shared appreciation of the arts.

- Monday 5th October – Vincent in Ramsgate: Van Gogh in England with Jacqui Ansell

- Monday 2nd November – Carry On Up the Khyber: Movies and the End of an Empire with Colin Shindler
- Monday 7th December - E H Shepard's Christmas (Illustrator of Winnie-the-Pooh) with James Campbell

Guests and non-members are very welcome at all TASS lectures. If you are planning to join us more than once, why not purchase our handy bag of three guest tokens for £18?

Alternatively, you can simply pay £7 on the door while you consider society membership for 2027!

Vicki Bates

Sandwich History Society

The lecture on 8th October is The Wrong Side of Independence: Loyalists and the American Revolution in which Dr Ben Marsh addresses a much-overlooked portion of the American population who opted to remain loyal to the Crown and suffered many consequences during the ruptures that led to the creation of the United States of America.

Sandwich Guildhall, 6.30pm. £5 non-members.
www.sandwichhistorysociety.org.uk

Age Concern Sandwich

Dementia Roadshow

Age Concern Sandwich and The Sunflower Centre are bringing a Dementia Roadshow to St George's Church, Deal, on Friday 2nd October, from 10am to 1pm.

The free event is for people living with dementia, carers, family members and anyone who would like to find out more about the support available locally.

A wide range of organisations will be there to offer friendly advice, information, activities and practical support. It is a great opportunity to meet local services face to face, ask questions and discover help that you may not have known was available.

Whether dementia is already part of your life, you are supporting someone else, or you simply want to be better informed, you are very welcome to come along.

Suzanne Winham


EAST KENT
GROWERS
HALLOWEEN
QUIZ NIGHT!
A NIGHT OF FUN, MYSTERY & BRAIN POWER!
TRICK OR QUIZ?
FUN QUIZ ROUNDS
GREAT FOR FRIENDS, FAMILY & COLLEAGUES
SPOOKTACULAR PRIZES
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2026
BAR OPENS AT 6:30PM
QUIZ STARTS AT 7:30PM
EAST KENT GROWERS
WALMESTONE ROAD, WINGHAM, CT3 1ES
DRESS UP!
PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED PERSON!
DECORATE YOUR TABLE!
PRIZES FOR THE BEST DECORATED TABLE!
SPOOKY PRIZES TO BE WON!
TEAMS OF 4-6 PEOPLE | £3 PER PERSON
TO BOOK YOUR TEAM
MICHELLE.EASTKENTGROWERS@GMAIL.COM
Please include number of people.
BRING YOUR OWN FOOD
DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR

The Man Behind The Challenge



On the weekend of August 14th, I became the first person with a spinal cord injury to take on the Arch to Arc route, widely regarded as one of the toughest triathlons in the world. The challenge starts at Marble Arch in London and finishes at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, a distance of 290 miles. To make it possible, I had to adapt the event to make it accessible for me.

Ten years ago, I was diagnosed with tumours on my spinal cord. Although treatment was successful, the tumours left me with permanent nerve damage and weakness from the bottom of my rib cage down. During my rehabilitation at Stoke Mandeville's National Spinal Injuries Centre, and after leaving hospital, I received invaluable support from three spinal injury charities.

To mark the 10th anniversary of my diagnosis, I wanted to attempt something that had never been done before while raising money for Aspire, the Spinal Injuries Association, WheelPower, and Dover Rowing Club, which I joined to continue participating in sport.

My challenge began on Friday 14th August at 6am when I set off from Marble Arch on my handcycle. The route to Dover covered 87 miles and, because of the extreme heat, took much longer than anticipated. I eventually arrived in Dover at 11.30pm.

The following morning, at 7am, I took on the second stage: rowing the equivalent Channel crossing distance of 21 miles with a crew that included my daughter. As we are not permitted to row across the English Channel, we completed the distance by rowing both inside and outside Dover Harbour, heading towards Folkestone and returning. We finished at around 10.30am.

Afterwards, we travelled by ferry to Calais, arriving at approximately 5.45pm. From there, I began the final stage: a 182-mile handcycle ride to Paris. Delays to the ferry, combined with the late finish the previous day, meant we had to change our original plan. Instead of a short overnight rest and an early Sunday start, I took a longer recovery period and split the remaining distance over two days.

On Sunday 16th August, I completed around 70 miles. Then, on Monday 17th August, despite suffering a couple of punctures and tyre issues along the way, I completed the final 90 miles and arrived at the Arc de Triomphe at 11pm.

So far, the challenge has raised £7,920, which will be split equally between Aspire, the Spinal Injuries Association, WheelPower, and Dover Rowing Club. I would love to get as close as possible to my £10,000 target.

If you are able to support these fantastic organisations, please consider making a donation by scanning the QR above.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story, and thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout this incredible journey.

Jon Crook

Reader Letter

A Thorny Issue

I've been trying to locate all sorts of organisations about this issue, each time I'm referred to someone else!

Footpath EE111 (Coombe Lane) is becoming dangerous, brambles from both sides of the path, plus underfoot, the barbed wire threatens you if you try to dodge getting your eye poked out by brambles and hedge itself!

Sooner or later someone is going to have an accident if this is not attended to very soon.

Rosemary Murgatroyd

Garden Jottings for October

What a lovely summer we have had though many people have regretted the lack of rainfall. Still, it came as always just in the nick of time to bring life back to brown lawns and tattered seared plants. Given a thorough overhaul, removing remaining dead and scruffy leaves and desiccated annuals, it is amazing how the garden has taken on a new lease of life.

But with thoughts of further dry years in mind here are some fairly resistant and drought hardy plants to think about adding to the garden. These will need to be cosseted if they are to establish well. Make sure to water during their first few months then they will cope reasonably well: Sedums, Eryngiums, Salvias, Nepeta, and Agastache amongst other stalwarts such as Shasta Daisies, Accillea, Solidago and Michaelmas Daisies will make a fine display. Maybe it will be a good idea to use more hardy shrubs in the border to give a little structure and body with some resistance to the predicted dry summers. These will also need a good feed and water to help them grow and settle into the soil. Cyptus, Caryopteris, Hebe, Santolina, Rosemary and shrubby Salvias are just a few good choices.

However the usual tasks will have to be thought about as we repair and restore our ravaged borders. Try to leave seemingly defunct herbaceous plants as they will often shoot forth new growth given a cool damp spell as will our poor parched lawns, so scarify gently and give an autumn dressing. When leaves fall mow them as you cut the lawn they will rot down quicker and save so much raking. If you do rake and collect leaves store them in black bin liner with holes pierced in it. Water the leaves before tying up the top. Store them away in a corner to make good leaf mould for next year's mulch. When you add mowings to the compost heap or bin try to make layers of weeds, chopped prunings, spent plants, vegetable peelings and grass cuttings and then add shredded cardboard or newspaper and bonfire ash to absorb moisture and aid the rotting process. Too much green soft material will tend to become slimy and unpleasant if not layered in this way.

Honesty, Foxgloves and Canterbury Bells can be planted out in flower beds. Wallflowers can be bought and planted into holes that have been thoroughly soaked first. Plant them deeply and firm them well in. Sweet Williams can also be added into areas after removal of Geraniums. It is not necessary to make formal beds of these plants indeed unless you have a very large garden it is impossible. Instead add groups of them

along with Tulips and Daffodils in small patches among perennial planting and into pots and containers where Pansies, Polyanthus and Cyclamen make a good choice with small cuttings of Euonymus and variegated Ivy. Plant daffodils deeply, putting groups of five or so together in clumps to look more natural than single bulbs. Lilies and Crown Imperials should also be planted deeply and planted so the hole in the centre of the bulb where last year's flower emanated from does not gather water. These will both benefit from a layer of sand when in the planting hole. Tulips can be planted later on into November. Large pots can be crammed full with layers of bulbs to give a long period of colourful succession.

Crocus, small Iris, Daffodils, Hyacinth and Tulips will all look good. Remember to make sure there are drainage holes and cover them with crocs (broken terracotta pots) and a layer of coarse gravel to avoid waterlogging which rots the bulbs. It is quite a good idea to keep a note, maybe on your calendar, of plants and bulbs that you would like to grow as a reminder to buy them. I always forget to buy them until I made a note on September's page in March as I saw them bloom in Spring.

Indoor Cyclamen and Amarilis that have been resting should have the top layer of soil removed and fresh compost added then restart watering and give a feed. Begonia tubers should be left until their stems wither and drop off as also with Gloxinias which should be dried and stored in a cool dry place. If Dahlias are frosted and shrivelled this month they should be lifted and cut back and labelled and stored upside down to drain the sap from the stems. Next month the dry tubers can be boxed up in some old compost and stored in a frost free dry place. Keep an eye out for mice who like to nibble these fleshy morsels.

Geraniums can either be taken into the greenhouse porch or conservatory and cut back to 4 to 5 inches and potted up to overwinter or discarded if too old and woody. Cuttings can be taken, removing lower leaves and cutting cleanly underneath a node (place where the leaf joined the stem) placing about 8 round the edge of a pot of damp well-draining compost. Adding some horticultural grit or coarse sand to the compost will open up the mixture and aid rooting.

Blue Salvia Patens can also be brought in to ensure they survive a harsh winter likewise tender Fuchsias also need to be taken into storage. Roses, Lavatera and Buddleia which have grown tall and leggy can be reduced in to avoid wind rock which can leave a hole around the stem where water or frost can enter and damage roots. The main pruning of

these will be completed in Spring. Check stakes and ties on trees, shrubs and roses and tie in any loose branches, trim to shape and firm the soil around the base of the plants. Herbaceous perennials such as Phlox, Monarda, Golden Rod, Shasta Daisies and Michaelmas Daisies can be cut down and divided if the clumps have become too large and old. This treatment is usually needed every three to four years. Remove outside sections and replant 3 to 4 nice pieces back in situ adding some compost and fertiliser to the planting area discard the old woody central portion. Most plants can be split with a small fork but very large clumps can be divided using 2 border forks back-to-back to split the plant. You can do this job anytime during late Autumn and into the new year providing it's not too hot and dry or very cold and frosty. Make sure to water in well and mulch the border. Try to leave some seed heads in the board for birds and insects. Pick and store apples and pears but leave late varieties on the tree till they are ready when lifted and given a slight twist. If you have any gaps in your raspberry bed dig up any random suckers and transplant them into the row. These always come up anywhere but the right place! Water them in and give some Growmore and a mulch, keeping it away from heaping up the new canes. Strawberries should be tidied and any runners severed up after they have rooted into the soil to plant on to make new plants. These need to be replaced about every three years just replacing a third to keep a reliable set of plants to continuously crop each season.

Harvest tender vegetables squash, peppers, tomatoes before the first frosts. Any green tomatoes can be put in a brown bag while they will ripen more quickly if a ripe banana is added. Stake sprouts and firm the soil around their stems and other brassicas don't forget to save pods from runner beans as they die down. Dry the pods remove the beans and store them for next year. Rockeries should be tidied up and any vigorous specimens split up or cut back and small bulbs can be added to give Spring colour. Finish by adding some gravel to top dress this will keep the plants well drained and up off the soil. Water lying on or in rock plants will do more harm than cold frosty weather.
Hoping that our gardens come back to full beauty next year as we learn to cope more successfully with the vagaries of our climate.

Christine Brown, President, Ash Horticultural Society

PS buy more water buts and containers.

Christmas Fayre in aid of Martha Trust

Saturday 21st November 2026
10am to 4pm
The Guildhall, Sandwich

Unique Christmas gifts, children's craft activities, live festive music, refreshments and tasty seasonal treats

FREE ENTRY

Plus a chance to visit Father Christmas between 10am and 3.30pm



Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Supported by

Superior Healthcare

MARTHA TRUST

Martha Trust, Homemead Lane, Hacklinge, Deal, Kent CT14 0PG
T 01304 610448 F 01304 615462 E fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk W www.marthatrust.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1067885 Company Number 3467406

Stories from the Archives (77)

From Knell Farm to Ballycrovane

When Charles Brown, a local farm worker, married Jane Rye, a native of Stodmarsh (and this writer's wife's second cousin, four times removed!) at St Mildred's church, Preston on 13th October 1870, it was the only wedding in the parish for the whole of that year – except for one other, exactly a week later on Thursday the 20th. This curious fact contrasts with today, when Preston is the venue for very many weddings each year.

Charles sought work where it was to be had and the couple settled in Ash, firstly at Knell Farm and later in Ware, Westmarsh and Hoaden. Their first child, Arthur, soon arrived and several more followed, including Charles junior - the subject of this piece – who was born in 1875 when the family was still at Knell. After moving to Westmarsh, tragedy struck in 1879 when Jane died at the age of 29, the first of a number of sadnesses to hit the Browns.

A year and a half later Charles remarried when Alice Tapsell became his wife, the ceremony taking place at Holy Trinity church, Westmarsh. At least five further children were born to this second marriage during the 1880s and '90s and the younger ones attended Westmarsh school around the turn of the century. Not all Charles' children were to reach adulthood, however: Emma Elizabeth died in May 1890 at age of 16. By this time young Charles had flown the nest, now lodging as a farm boy in Leonard Wraight's farmhouse at Tickenhurst, at that time in Northbourne parish. However, everything changed in October 1892 when he enlisted in the Royal Navy.

Most of Charles' early years in the Navy were spent on training ships – a *very* tough life for a lad then – and also on a number of shore stations and base ships along the south coast. Beginning with HMS Impregnable and Ganges, he also trained and served on HMS Boscowen, Pembroke, Tartar and Wildfire as well as a number of ocean-going battleships – among them HMS Pique, Goliath and Blenheim.

More shore base assignments followed, including HMS Victory and Hercules, before Charles was transferred to the Coastguard Service, still an able-bodied RN seaman. This took him to many more coastal locations and, having married Caroline Sydney Crowe near Newcastle in 1902, the couple occupied a number of different billets, usually in a row of coastguard cottages. Over the years this service took them up and own

England's eastern coast, from Leysdown on Sheppey and Orfordness near Aldeburgh in Suffolk, to Spurn Point on the Humber estuary and Easington in Northumberland, from where Caroline hailed. Their children, Charles Albert and Charlotte Elsie, were therefore schooled in a variety of widespread locations.

Back in Ash, Charles' younger brothers all served in the armed forces during the Great War, in both military and naval roles. The fighting quickly claimed young Albert, a private in the 1st battalion of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment), who embarked for France with his unit in September 1914 and marched many miles before seeing action in mid-October. At Radinghem, the battalion suffered nearly 140 casualties (killed, wounded and missing) on 20th October, and Albert lost his life on that day.

His brothers survived the conflict and, on 1st May 1919, a new coastguard force was formed (the "New Force"), still administered by the Admiralty, which led to new postings for nearly all those already serving as coastguards. Charles found himself transferred to Ireland (then still part of the United Kingdom) and he and Caroline were installed in a familiar row of the usual style of Victorian coastguard cottages, the homes for the men and families staffing the local coastguard station.

There could hardly have been a more remote spot for their posting: far, far over in the southwest corner of Co Cork on the windblown Atlantic coast of the Beara Peninsular, tucked away in the isolated Coulagh Bay, was Ballycrovane. Apart from the odd cottage, there was simply nothing there.

It was an unpropitious time for anyone associated with the British armed forces to be serving in the "Rebel County." The armed Irish Rebellion (or the War of Irish Independence) broke out as Charles and his colleagues settled in. During the following year, 1920, it spread alarmingly and many towns in Co Cork – Mallow, Clonakilty, Bandon, Rosscarbery, Fermoy, Midleton and, of course, Cork City – saw increasingly regular and widespread bloodshed between the IRA, the local police and the British Army.

This was all far from Charles and Caroline, however, way out in Ballycrovane. Until 25th July that is, when a force around 20 well-armed IRA men attacked the isolated coastguard station. Very detailed reports of this incident, compiled both at the time and since, vary in their accounts of the action. However, a firefight ensued and some of the coastguards

attempted an escape from the rear of the building but two of these were gunned down – Petty Officer Charles Brown and Chief Officer Philip Snewin – before the defenders surrendered. Caroline Brown endured the shock of witnessing her husband's murder. He was 44, Snewin 51. Far from their homes, they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.



Charles was laid to rest in Linthorpe cemetery, Middlesbrough, where Caroline continued to reside and Snewin was buried in Scarborough, where he had served during the late war and was very well known.

Most of the family moved away from Ash in the years following the war but we still have a moving reminder today of the family and their service. The Westmarsh Roll of Honour records not only Albert's sacrifice but also the service of all his brothers. And in Middlesbrough, Charles' headstone was raised by the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission which continues to ensure its care to this very day more than a century later and also honours Albert's sacrifice in Flanders.

The research for this piece has been undertaken over a number of years by Lynne Ewart and both she and the writer visited the Ballycrovane in 2014. The ruins of the coastguard station and cottages remain.

Peter Ewart


Dover District Lotto
Tickets just £1 a week
PLAY NOW TO BOOST OUR FUNDRAISING
Support local causes in our community
To buy tickets visit www.doverlotto.com and search for your local good cause
SUPPORTING
ASH VILLAGE HALL
CHEQUER INN ASH SOCIETY
FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
Or call the dedicated support number
01304 776123
to register and set up payments
SUPPORTERS MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OVER

Gardening Services

From tired gardens to thriving ones - friendly, reliable garden care across Ash and the surrounding area.

I'm Jo, offering simple, honest help to keep your garden looking its best. No landscaping or tree work, just everyday gardening done well.

How I can help

- ✓ **General tidy-up**
  weeding, clearing, mowing
- ✓ **Planting**
  annuals, herbs, shrubs, pots
- ✓ **Basic pruning**
  light shaping
- ✓ **Watering**
  regular and seasonal care
- ✓ **Seedling and pot care**
  repotting, staking
- ✓ **Veg-patch help**
  vegetables, herbs

Free, no-obligation quotes available

Perfect for

- ✓ **Busy** households
- ✓ **Elderly** gardeners
- ✓ **New** gardeners
- ✓ **Small** gardens, courtyards
- ✓ **Holiday** watering cover

Why choose me

- ✓ **Friendly** and down-to-earth
- ✓ **Happy** to work alongside you or independently
- ✓ **Clear** communication and fair pricing
- ✓ **Love** for plants and wildlife

Give me a call for a chat about your garden

07787 743 404

GIBBONS GAS
PLUMBING AND HEATING

- Boiler Servicing
- Boiler Installations
- Gas Safety Inspections
- Emergency Call-Out

07706 472707 - Call Anytime

info@gibbonsgas.co.uk

www.gibbonsgas.co.uk



Farthings The Forstal, Preston, Canterbury, CT3 1DR

foot fine care

Fully qualified, experienced and insured foot health practitioners

We provide professional **mobile foot care services**

Routine foot + nail care	Hard skin removal	Corns
Thick nails	Verrucas	Fungal nails
Cracked heels	Ingrown nails	Nail bracing
Diabetic footcare	NeuroVascular assessments	Footcare advice

We also provide micro suction **earwax removal**

07526355488 footfinecare@gmail.com **www.footfinecare.com**

HOW CAN I HELP?

Companionship and Befriending for a relative

If you need support for any of the below (or related), from someone who is honest, trustworthy and reliable with excellent references to support you, I can help.

I have 18 years of professional experience with all ages and difficulties, from birth to adults and have been a foster carer in my previous career (DBS up to date)

**Walking companion*

**Driving, shopping/cooking/housework/errands*

**Support with interests/hobbies and light gardening*

**Dog walking/pet sitting*

**I also have good listening and communication skills to assist individuals with emotional support and life skills*

**Typing for or reading to (Advocacy support)*

I believe in building positive liaisons with parents/guardians to meet the needs of any individual.

Hourly rates are negotiable either through direct payments or privately.

Please call Ann 07793811462



Fresh from the Farm!

Visit our local farm shop for Farm Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, Plants, Shrubs, Composts & Terracotta Pots.

Quality home grown and local produce.

Open 7 days a week throughout the year

Laslett's White Mill FARM · SHOP

Ash Road, Sandwich Tel: 01304 617576

LITTLEOAK SERVICES LTD

All your gardening needs

Professional Gardening services

Family run business established since 2002



Garden Maintenance	weed killing spray
Hedge reshaping	Scarifying
Small tree pruning	Garden clearance
Garage & shed	Lawn Maintenance
Clearance	Carpet bedding
Planting	Blade Sharpening
Japanese knotweed	Garden machinery
Treatment	maintenance

Many more services provided…

Visit our website…

www.littleoakservicesltd.com

Contact us for an enquiry/ quote on either

littleoakservices@outlook.com

07849092322

BRIDGES
INSURANCE

Celebrating 53 years as an independent Insurance Broker 1972-2025

EXPERIENCE ★ EXPERIENCE
OVER 50 YEARS
★ SINCE 1972 ★

Have you been with the same insurer for a long time, perhaps it is time for a review?

We specialise in:

BUSINESS - PROPERTY – CHARITY – CHURCH - HIGH-NET WORTH



Contact the team for a quotation today.

01843 293614

www.bridges.insure

enquiries@bridges.insure

Bridges Insurance Brokers
1 Ozengell Place
Eurokent Business Park. Ramsgate Kent
CT12 6PB

'With us it's personal'

KITCHENS, BEDROOMS, BATHROOMS

Restore, Re-build, Revive

with a simple makeover or a full refurbishment. Always a professional finish tailored to your lifestyle.

David Watson

dedicated local fitter and skilled multi-trader

- *Free Quotes, Fully Insured*
- *Fensa registered, DBS checked*
- **CHECKATRADE approved**

Tel: 01304 351095
Mob: 07828116392
Email: building@handyhomemaintenance.co.uk

For all those jobs you never have time to do

ROBINSON MOTORS

White Mill, Ash Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9JB
garage@robinson-motors.co.uk

Telephone: 01304 611719

Car Servicing and Repairs.
MOT Testing.
Car Tuning and Diagnostic Centre.
Tyre Fitting and Puncture Repairs.
Air Conditioning Recharge and Maintenance.

Bosch Car Service Centre.
www.robinson-motors.co.uk



ashpropertycare

Property Maintenance Specialist

Local specialist covering all aspects of property maintenance and repair, from shelving to full bathroom installations and everything inbetween.

GREG HARRIS
01304 813572
07721 000222

FREE ADVICE, FREE QUOTES

Carinya Landscapes

40 Years' Experience of Creating Beautiful Gardens.
Specialists in All Aspects of Hard Landscaping.
Micro Digger for Hire with Driver
Patios – Ponds – Block Paving – Decking – Fencing – Terracing
All Types of Brickwork – No Job Too Large or Small – Fully Insured
For a Free Estimate Contact Mick Parsons.
Tel 01304 813726 Mobile: 07801 694161



Stephen Smith

QUALIFIED PAINTER and DECORATOR

Est. 1992

INTERIOR • EXTERIOR

PAPERHANGING A SPECIALITY

FOR A PROFESSIONAL EFFICIENT SERVICE

TELEPHONE (01303) 272832

MOBILE 07766 036608

Wright & Shadwell
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

For a free personal and business financial consultation please call
Karen Wright or email info@wrightshadwell.co.uk

- Investments & Savings
- Retirement Planning
- IHT & Succession Planning
- Pension Sharing on Divorce
- Family Protection
- Overall Holistic Advice

The Heathers
Elmstone, Preston
Nr Canterbury
Kent CT3 1HH
T 01227 722922
F 01227 722905



Tony Wells

Your local professional mole catcher

Cost-effective traditional mole control

No Mole - No Fee • Free Survey • Fully Insured

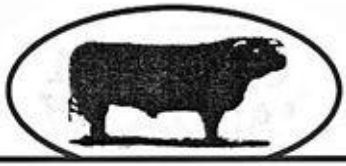
01304 611090 / 07518 949587

East Kent Mole Catcher

No Mole – No Fee
Your local mole catcher, based in Ash, covering all local towns and villages.
Offering mole control for your lawns, gardens & paddocks. Public liability insurance.

Call/Text
East Kent Mole Catcher 07876 686543
Email – molecatcherkeith@hotmail.com
molecatcherkeith@hotmail.com





Chandler & Dunn Ltd

Home of the Goldstone Herd of Sussex Cattle
Goldstone, Ash, Kent CT3 2DY
(Cop Street and Goldstone Junction off the A257)
Prime Beef, Lamb & Pork
Locally produced the natural way
For enquiries and shop opening times please contact us on:
Tel: 01304-814245
Email: butchery@chandleranddunn.co.uk
www.chandleranddunn.com

SOLID ROOFING

ROOFING SPECIALISTS

DARREN CROASDALE

DAZ2105@ICLOUD.COM

WWW.SOLIDROOFING.CO.UK

84 Astley Avenue
Dover CT16 2PW

07535615535

www.ThanetPlumbing.co.uk

James Braund

Local, Reliable Gas Engineer and General Plumber
Dripping Taps to Full Heating and Boiler Installs

Tel: 07876 595029
Email: thanetplumbing1@gmail.com

Based in Ware, covering all surrounding areas

Always CheckATrade.com Before you use them

Gas Safe Register

T. PETTMAN

CLOCKMAKER

SPECIALIST IN ANTIQUE CLOCK
RESTORATION AND REPAIR

Daytime
07860 498963

Evening
01843 825050

Nick Hassall Joinery

I make anything from wood.
Internal and external joinery, furniture, windows, stairs, kitchens, all to suit new and old buildings.
Call me for a free quotation and to see examples of my work.
Email to nickhassall@gmail.com or call on 07815 179251 (based in Staple).



Wingham Country Market
CT3 1JW
01227 720567
On the A257 between Ash and Wingham
Open 7 days a week

Family-run farm shop stocking a complete range of fresh fruit, vegetables, salads and herbs

Over 800 organic products including fresh vegetables from our family-run farm

Extensive range of vegan and special-diet foods

Competitively-priced ready to burn logs, coal and Calor gas. Logs delivered to your door in nets, bulk bags or tipper loads

Well-stocked garden centre, Christmas trees available in December

Home and business deliveries available

READY TO BURN

Company:
Wingham Country Market
Certificate No: WS5705/00001

NEW GARDEN SHOP NOW OPEN

Website: www.winghamcountrymarket@live.co.uk
Email: winghamcountrymarket@live.co.uk

OIL BOILER SERVICE

www.oilboilerskent.co.uk

Friendly Family Business
Prompt Professional Service
Sensible Prices
Fully Qualified & Insured

For Routine Service or Emergency Breakdown Contact

P & V QUENBY LTD
01227 760428

Sarah Hayward GCC, MCA, C of C
McTimoney Chiropractor

Gentle & Effective

- Back, Neck & Shoulder Pain
- Pain & Stiffness - Joints & Bones
- Migraine
- Sports Injury
- Pregnancy
- Muscular aches & pains

Tel: **07778703373** 53 Chequer Lane, Ash (Also based in Canterbury)
www.sarah-hayward.co.uk

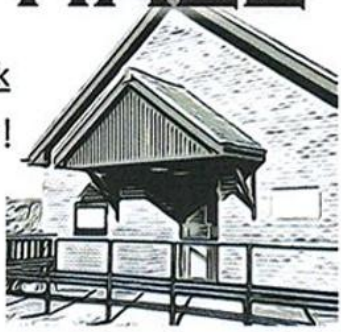


WESTMARSH VILLAGE HALL

www.WestmarshVillageHall.org.uk

Perfect for parties and events!

All-inclusive hire cost
(hall, kitchen, ample parking
and large outdoor grassed area)



Telephone **Kari Somers on 07779 933604** or email
bookings@WestmarshVillageHall.org.uk

Tracey Miles

Chartered Physiotherapists

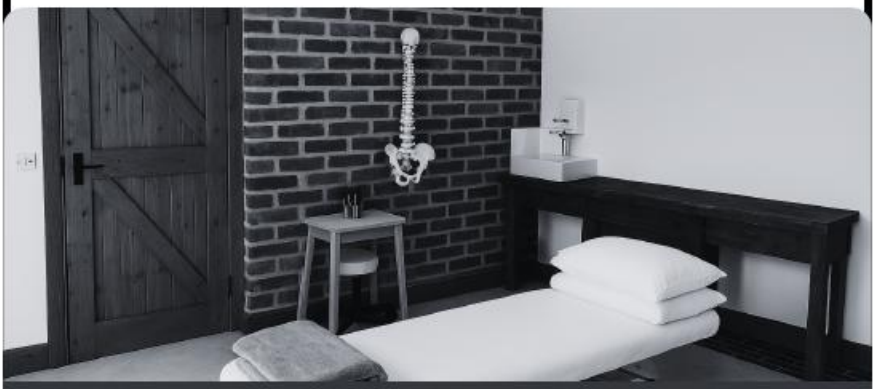
Balance and Musculoskeletal

Dizziness & Balance Rehab
Muscle & Joint Pain Physio
Sports Injuries Adults & Children
Apos for Hip, Knee and Back Pain

Pelvic Health

Women & Men's Pelvic Physio
Bladder & Bowel
Pregnancy & Postnatal Care
Pessary Fitting

AXA Bupa WPA AVIVA Cigna.



01304 813408
admin@traceymilesphysio.com
www.traceymilesphysio.com
Overland Farm Clinic, Ash, Canterbury, Kent CT3 2LF

Half Price Carpet Cleaning

My name is Perry, and my wife Marina and I run ACS Carpet Cleaning, a local family run business established for 30 years, with 1000's of happy clients.



We would love to welcome you as a valued client too. That's why I created my extremely popular

HALF PRICE INTRODUCTORY OFFER.

Free Quote I'll visit you and see what needs to be done. I'll carry out a few quick tests and leave you with a written quote that includes my half price introductory offer.

You were polite and friendly and your service was excellent. My carpets look a damn sight better. I'm very pleased. Mrs Simmons, Ash.

To book a quote call 01304 381165

HUGH COOKE LTD

BUILDERS ~ ASH

Est. 1991

Specialising in:

Traditional Brickwork
•
Plastering
•
Building
•
Roofing
•
Extensions
•
Renovations

FSB

City & Guilds Qualified

Rose Cottage, Cop Street, Ash, Canterbury, Kent CT3 2DL

t. **01304 813791**

m. **07970 601926**



First Class

DOMESTIC CLEANING SERVICES

Super Cleaning! Super Courtesy!
Super Efficiency!

For your regular or one-off cleaning in your home, office or church

Tel: 01227 277033 or 07425 729621

Quality Cleaning with Care

www.supermaids.co.uk **info@supermaids.co.uk**



Jewellery you'll love, service you'll appreciate

Kim Wood Jewellers

Antique & Modern Jewellery
Silverware ~ Watches and Clocks
Secondhand Items Purchased
Pawnbroking Services Available
Valuations ~ Trade Welcome

Tel/Fax: 01304 617700
8B King Street Sandwich Kent CT13 9BY
Workshop on the premises
Buy online at
www.jewellersinkent.com
www.facebook.com/kimwoodjewellers

St Faith's
PREP SCHOOL

RATED 'EXCELLENT'

Excellence is everywhere at St Faith's Prep School & Nursery in the heart of the Kent countryside.

Find out more!



THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE REVIEWED!

www.stfaithsprep.com | 01304 813409 | @stfaithsprep

J. DILNOT SMITH & SON

• *Established for over seven generations* •

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

A local independent family concern providing a complete caring service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- Bespoke funerals
- Pre-paid funeral plans
- Direct Cremations
- Home arrangements
- Keepsake Jewellery

FUNERAL PLANS FROM Golden Charter
Smart Planning for Later Life

OFFICES AND PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST AT

Deal: 01304 380914
184 Gladstone Road,
Walmer, CT14 7EL

Sandwich: 01304 812300
Cedar Lodge, Beacon Lane,
Woodnesborough, CT13 0PD

www.jdilnotsmith.co.uk

enquiries@jdilnotsmith.co.uk

Ash Village Hall

Ideal Venue for all your Events and Children's Parties

Available for Hire -

Hall with Stage, PA and Hearing Loop
Meeting Room with Tea Bar
Fully Equipped Kitchen
Disabled Access

Bookings - 07947 832807
www.ashvillagehall.org.uk
facebook.com/ashvillagehall

Library at Ash Village Hall

During opening hours tel: 01304 812440

Monday	11.30 - 1300 & 14.00 - 17.00
Tuesday	09.30 - 13.00
Wednesday	09.30 - 14.00
Thursday	Closed
Friday	11.30 - 17.00
Saturday	09.00 - 14.00
Sunday	Closed

Books - Information
Free Internet Access
www.kent.gov.uk/libs

Kent County Council

River Chimney Sweep

Insurance approved certificate issued with every sweep

Other services include:
Stove Installation: Chimney liners
Bird cowls: Chimney Repointing
Stove servicing & repairs
Call Marcus Wright
Tel: 01304 761081
Mob: 07971 699220
www.riverchimneysweep.co.uk

Registered OFTEC Stove Installer



MARK JONES TREE SURGERY

A full range of Arboricultural Operations undertaken including:

- Planting and re-instatement schemes
- Remedial Tree Surgery
- Planning Advice (TPO and Conservation Area)
- Work carried out to BS3998:2010, Forestry Safety Council & Arboricultural Association guidelines
- Fully Insured, qualified and NPTC certificated staff

Tel: 01304 614652
Mobile: 07956 994601
email: mark@markjonestreesurgery.co.uk
www.markjonestreesurgery.co.uk

GUILTON FORGE GARAGE Ltd.

RMI
MOTOR INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE
Service and Repair

- 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT
- AIR CONDITIONING
- SERVICING
- DIAGNOSTICS
- BATTERIES

MOT TEST CENTRE

- LIGHT VEHICLE REPAIRS
- BRAKES
- TYRES
- EXHAUSTS
- SUSPENSION

Tel: 01304 812630

www.guiltonforge.co.uk

Sandwich Coarse Fishery

WATERSIDE CAFÉ

CREAM TEAS AND CAKES, FRESHLY BAKED SCONES BY A ROARING FIRE

7 DAYS A WEEK UNTIL 5:00PM (SUNDAYS UNTIL 4.30PM)

SEVEN STUNNING COARSE FISHING LAKES WITH A LARGE RANGE IF SPECIMEN FISH

TACKLE SHOP AND ROD HIRE

WATERSIDE CAFÉ SERVING HOT AND COLD FOOD AND DRINKS

CARAVAN SITE WITH SPACIOUS GRASS AND HARDSTANDING PITCHES AVAILABLE

Sandwich Ash Road (A257) CT3 2DA www.sandwichlakes.co.uk



07936 809912

team@sandwichlakes.co.uk

Premier

Free ATM

Amazing value

Poparound – Ash

The right price food store for all your local needs,
Including Pay Zone & Pay Point services

Groceries; off-licence; bakery; newspapers and magazines; hot food and drinks; dry-cleaning; health and national lottery; fax and copy services; home delivery; stationary; and more

Open 6.30am-10pm daily

Shop: 01304 812251 **Evri delivery**

31 The Street, Ash, Canterbury

Canterbury Pottery

(Opposite the Cathedral. Est. 1963)

Hand made stoneware pottery for the home & garden,
all in our own sumptuous glazes.
Special commissions undertaken. Free delivery to Ash area.
Tel: 01227 452608. Visit our Studio Showrooms or
www.canterburypottery.com