

ASH WITH WESTMARSH
PARISH MAGAZINE
SEPTEMBER 2025
£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>	Community Warden, Kerry Skirrow	07977 982184
	www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens	
	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
<u>Healthcare</u>	Environmental Health	01304 872215
	Trading Standards	0845 4040506
	Ash Library	01304 812440
	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 September 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

Pale, peachy colour Gladioli flower. Its overlapping petals creating complex shades – was not easy to do, but they have been so beautiful this year, I wanted to try. They are sometimes known as Sword Lily and are part of the iris family.

Pat Coles

Contacts

Clergy

Reverend Caroline Turvey
01304 812296

Churchwarden

Jacqueline Wilkinson
ash_chwarden@thecanonrybenefice.org.uk

Benefice Administration

Beth Barber
admin@thecanonrybenefice.org.uk

Share Your News

Email copy for the next magazine edition by **Thursday 18th September** 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

HAPPY HOUR at Elmstone Church (or in Church Meadow if the weather is fine) will be held on Friday 5th September from 6.30pm. For more Elmstone news, see page 25.

THE COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING at Ash Village Hall will be hosted by Ash Heritage Group on Saturday 6th September from 10am-12noon.

ASH WITH WESTMARSH WI meet at Ash Village Hall, Thursday 7th September for a talk on Phantasmagoria. 2.30pm. See page 22 details.

ASH HERITAGE GROUP: Hidden in Plain Sight - Self-Guided Tour 12th-21st September and Archive Room Exhibition 19th-20th September. See poster page 14 for details.

FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH AGM Thursday 11th September, 7pm. Open to all. See poster page 24.

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

THE RINGLEMERE ENSEMBLE Late Summer Concert, St Nicholas Church, Ash, Sunday 14th September 2.30pm. Tickets £15. See poster, page 12 for details.

ASH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Autumn Show Saturday 20th September. Open from 2.30pm. See page 17 for details of Open Classes. Talk on September 25th 7.30pm Joe Archer, From Kew To Kent. See society news, page 16.

HARVEST MEAL and quiz at St Nicholas Church, Ash, Friday 26th September. See page 6 for details.

Forward look

Ash Bowls Club Quiz Night, October 4th. More details to follow.

Friends of St Nicholas Church Shuffleboard evening Saturday 11th October, Ash Village Hall. Ticket details, see society news, page 17.

Celebrate 105 years of Girl Guiding in Ash on Saturday 11th October. Open morning. See poster page 10.

Church Services for September

Sunday 7th September

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 September

Holy Communion 9am All Saints, Chillenden
Holy Communion 10.30am St. Nicholas, Ash
Family Worship 10.30am St Mildred's, Preston, Harvest
Breakfast Church 9.30am St. Mary's Nonington
Choral Evensong 3.15pm Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Sunday 21st September

Holy Communion 9am Holy Cross, Goodnestone
Holy Communion 9am St Nicholas, Ash
Service of the word 10.30am Elmstone Church
Holy Communion 10.30am St. Nicholas, Ash

Sunday 28th September

Holy Communion 9am All Saints, Chillenden, also Harvest Festival
Holy Communion 10.30am St. Nicholas, Ash, also Harvest Festival
Evensong 6.30pm All Saints, Stourmouth, also Harvest Festival

Harvest services for Elmstone, Goodnestone and Nonington are on
Sunday 5th October

Information is correct at time of going to print – please
check www.thecanonrybenefice.org.uk for updates or our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/thecanonrybenefice

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

Other churches can be unlocked upon request. Please note services may be taking place during this time. Check noticeboards for closures during booked events.

Harvest Festival Collection St Nicholas Church

Tinned or dried goods can be left in the church porch from September 22nd to 28th for donation to the Salvation Army, Margate.

Harvest Meal and Quiz

A harvest meal and quiz will be held at St Nicholas Church on Friday 26th September.

Open to all, a meal of chicken casserole (vegetarian option available) will be served from 6.30pm.

This will be followed by a quiz, compiled by Matt Titterton.

No fixed price. Donations please.



Parish Register

Baptisms

Ariela Armstrong, St Mary's, Nonington, 3rd August

Ava Alexander, St Mildred's, Preston, 3rd August

Amelia Alexander, St Mildred's, Preston, 3rd August

Toby Smith, St Nicholas, Ash, 24th August

Richard Wilson, St Nicholas, Ash, 24th August

Weddings

Hannah Ashton-Konig and Jack Barwick, St Mary's, Nonington, 2nd August

Susan Roberts and Nicholas Reid, All Saints, Stourmouth, 2nd August

Blessing for Maria and David Halfpenny, St Mary's, Nonington, 23rd August

Funeral

James Ford St Mary's, Nonington, 8th August

Ride and Stride 2025

Churches across the Ash Benefice will be open on Saturday 13th September as part of the annual Ride and Stride event organised by The Friends of Kent Churches.

This is a sponsored event at which participants are asked to walk or ride to visit as many local churches between 10am and 6pm to raise money for their local church.

Any volunteers who are able to help at St Nicholas Church should contact Peter Ewart. Posters with details will be in the church porch.

An appeal from Preston and Elmstone

As local organiser for St. Mildred's Church, Preston, I now have sponsorship forms for anyone who would like to take part. Contact details below.

50% of the money raised goes to the Friends of Kent Churches (who then distribute this to various church projects throughout Kent) and the other 50% comes directly to Preston Church.

So far this year, only one local resident has offered to participate in Preston so it would be really good if we could have one or two more. If anyone would like to man the church for an hour or so during the day to check in the riders and striders please do contact me on 01227 905886 or by email on nookesplace37@gmail.com

Janette Nickols is the local organiser for Elmstone and if anyone from Elmstone would like to participate she can be contacted on 07803 086584.

Chris Anderson

Deanery Roadshows

Deanery Roadshows offer a chance to find out more about work happening across the diocese. The theme for this year's roadshows is 'The Next Steps to Growth'.

There will be a roadshow at St Luke's Church, Ramsgate, on Wednesday 3rd September. All the events start with refreshments at 6.45pm with the roadshow starting at 7pm and finishing by 9pm. For more details go to www.canterburydiocese.org/parishsupport/roadshows

The Parish Letter

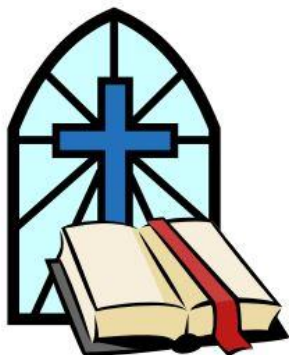
How good are we at thanking others, even for the smallest of things? Yes, I know we should be thankful for gifts, but what I am thinking of is deeds.

As I grow older I have realised how inter-dependent we are on other people. We could not live without others around us. Often it is those with the most insignificant of jobs who make the greatest impact and are often taken for granted.

We only have to think about our daily lives and how we function to understand the complexities of life with others. How different it would be if there was no family to get us out of bed in the morning, if there was nobody to get our meals and look after the household chores. If our car breaks down we shout for a mechanic. If our TV ceases to function we seek an electrician. We seldom think of the person who drives the bus, or the shop assistants who stack the shelves in the shop, or the delivery driver who keeps the shops supplied with our food. There are millions of other examples of how reliant we are on so many people.

I am sure that, far more often than we do, we should stop and think how we are all bound up together in the bundle of life; that we should stop every now and again to remember our utter dependence on other people; that sometimes we should look at our own work and see in it, whatever it is, not something by which we earn a wage, but something which is contributing to keeping the world going, and something in which we must, therefore, take a pride. We should also remember the numerous people who do voluntary work in our community who do so much for others.

Some of us do something that directly effects others such as the medical staff in the surgery; others do things that may effect others indirectly but nevertheless play their part. We all play a part in the lives of others.



We ought not only to give thanks to God for our work, and our health and strength and knowledge and skill but also thank God for all the people who in their own ways contribute to our lives. We should also never forget to thank them at every opportunity so that they can feel appreciated. It is often the small and unexpected 'thank you' that can mean so much.

Gratitude should be part of all our daily lives.

Rev. Nigel Hale

‘Warmer homes this winter and lower bills’

Free insulation, Solar PV and Air Source Heat Pumps

Dover District Council has been awarded funding to support local residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

The money will be invested in homes across the district as part of the Warm Homes Local Grant (WHLG), funding the likes of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal wall insulation for solid wall homes, air source heat pumps (ASHP) and Solar PV.

To qualify for funding the property and the occupants need to meet the criteria below: -

- The property has an EPC rating below a C. You can find out more about energy ratings at www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate (if you do not have an energy rating for your property you may still be eligible)
- The total annual household income (gross) is £36,000 or lower, or the occupants are in receipt of a means tested benefit.

The initiative is aimed at privately owned and privately rented properties in the district that meet the criteria (eligible private rented properties will require landlord agreement and a signed declaration form).

Residents are encouraged to express their interest in this WHLG initiative now as the funding is time limited, with only 14 grants available. Call 01304 872414 or email energy@dover.gov.uk

Educational Grants

The Cartwright Godfrey and Kelsey Charity offers educational grants to individuals or organisations in the Parish of Ash.

Over the years grants have been given to the Cartwright and Kelsey school for a range of educational needs and to individuals for items such as book grants when they move to further education.

The charity has also helped scouts and guides attend international working groups abroad. If you would like to apply for a grant or find out more about the grants please email Peter Chandler peterchandler1.pc@gmail.com

105 Years of Girlguiding in Ash!

Join us for our Open Morning



Ash Village Hall
Saturday 11th October 2025
10am – 1pm



If you want to get involved in Guiding or share your memories of Ash Guiding

email: 1stastrangers@gmail.com

Or find us on instagram: [@1stastrangers](https://www.instagram.com/1stastrangers)

Come along to find out about Ash Guiding History and Guiding Today.

Displays of Photographs, Revisit Memories, Interactive Opportunities

And of course refreshments!



VJ Day 80

On Friday 15th August, Ash joined national commemorations marking 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War on VJ Day.



Bells were rung at St Nicholas Church and a service led by Rev Caroline Turvey took place at Ash War Memorial.

Local residents and groups were asked to contribute suggestions for suitable poems which formed a 'trail' around Ash.

One location on the trail was The Volunteer Inn in Gilton which also proudly displayed this photo showing volunteers who signed up to fight for their country.

With thanks to Louise Venny who brought together different groups including Ash Heritage Group, Ash with Westmarsh WI, the Canonry Benefice, St Nicholas, Ash next Sandwich Bellringers and Ash Parish Council for this important anniversary and who organised similar events marking VE Day earlier this year.

Rebecca Smith

Chequer Inn Ash Society

The pub is now open seven days a week with new tenants Ian and Kim Midson in place.

There are a number of community groups and activities taking place on a regular basis, including Knit and Natter, Book Club and Bat and Trap. Pop into the pub for more information.

The new chair of CIAS is Bill Speed, with Peter Goldsack as Treasurer and interim Company Secretary is Jane Greaves.

The group is currently working on a new Open Share Offer.



Ringlemere Ensemble

LATE SUMMER

concert



**SUNDAY 14TH
SEPTEMBER**

St Nicholas Church, Ash

2.30pm

Tickets £15. Under 16s free.

**Cash or card accepted at door or tickets
will be available in advance after church
services or contact**

**www.ringlemere-ensemble.com or
ash_chwarden@thecanonrybenefice.org.uk**

Tea and cake in interval £2.50.



Ash Guides & Rangers

Ash Guides & Rangers headed off to Hastings for the day in July. The girls had planned the day and were very much in the lead. On arriving in Hastings, we headed off through the many footpaths and passageways to the West Hill which has amazing views of the Old Town & sea.

Following a bit of shopping in the Old Town and a picnic on the beach, we went to the Hastings Aquarium. It was well worth the visit with lots to see, but a particular favourite were the stingrays!

After tasting the local ice cream, we ended up at the Go Kart track. The girls turned out to be budding Formula 1 drivers and loved it. It was a great day out and gave the Guides & Rangers the chance to plan a trip, explore somewhere new to them and of course gain a badge.

We ended the term with a party for the Brownies, Guides & Rangers to celebrate our 105th birthday. There was lots of food, games and campfire singing.

Guides & Rangers will be returning in September with lots of activities planned on an international theme, Parliament week and preparing for our Open morning on Saturday 11th October at Ash Village Hall. There is lots to do to get displays ready, make gadgets and cakes ready to welcome people to come and see the history of Guiding in Ash from the 1920's onwards and also what Guiding offers today and for the future. We hope you will come and join us at the Open Morning.

Our Guiding units are all run by volunteers and we are always needing support, especially in our Ash Brownie unit at present, which needs some adult helpers urgently to keep going for the girls.

There are many ways you can support, not just as a unit helper, but by offering some time to help with promotion, fundraising, running our social media or at events. If you are interested in supporting Ash Guiding or have girls who would like to join any of our units, Brownies 7-10yrs, Guides 10 – 14yrs or Rangers 14 – 18yrs, please contact 1stashrangers@gmail.com, we would love to hear from you.

We are proud of our UK national Guiding statistics that girls in Guiding are 30% more confident and 15% happier than the UK average girl. So come along and join in

Madeline Lambie

Hidden in Plain Sight

- Discovering Architecture in Ash -

Self Guided Tour

12th - 21st September

Learn about architectural and hidden features on some of the village's interesting buildings. Look out for QR codes and a map of locations nearer the date. A souvenir booklet will be available to buy.

Exhibition

19th - 20th September (10am - 2pm)

The accessible Ash Heritage Group archive room will be open for an extended period. Tour information will be available, along with more photographs and examples being exhibited for a hands-on experience showing differences in building materials etc.

Hosted by Ash Heritage Group



Find out more:



f /heritageopendays
@heritageopendays
@heritageopendays

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

In partnership with
 National Trust



Friends of St Nicholas Church Ash

The Friends of St Nicholas Church Ash are a secular group drawn from the local community who exist to support the PCC by running fund raising events during the year.

Since our last update we have been very busy. We started the year in early February running our now celebrated race night with a 100 plus tickets sold and a riotously good fun evening raising in excess of £2,200.

We had a fairly quiet time after that with the team organising the Annual Art Exhibition in the background. Again a goodly profit was made of just short of £5500.00 during the May bank Holiday Weekend. Both these events have been detailed fully in previous magazine articles.

Continued over...

Ash Horticultural Society

**Saturday
20th
September
Ash Village
Hall
Viewing from
2.30pm**



Autumn Show Open Classes

- ✓ Free to enter
- ✓ Open to all

Classes include

Photography
Baking
Produce
Floral displays

For more details see
article in this magazine



We are now looking forward to our AGM on Thursday 11th September at 7pm. For full see details available elsewhere in this magazine. This event, like all our events, is open to all so why not join us for a glass of wine and nibbles after a talk by our Vicar, Reverend Caroline Turvey.

This will be closely followed by our Shuffleboard evening on Saturday 11th October at Ash Village Hall. Tickets will be on sale from 12th September, telephone 01304 813138. Friends Members are reminded that one of the membership perks are advance ticket reservations for our events so don't miss out and please think of joining us for the very modest sum of £5 annual membership fee. Gift aid membership forms from fstnicholas@gmail.com

Meanwhile we have provided funds for repairs to the Tower staircase to make it safe to allow visitors access to the top of the Tower and while there they can admire the new safety rails also paid for by the Friends, both worthwhile community projects. Other projects are in hand but taking time.

Chris Denby, Hon Sec

Ash Horticultural Society

What's on

- The Autumn Show, Saturday 20th September. See below for more details an open classes.
- Talk by Joe Archer: From Kew to Kent 25th September, 7.30pm. Joe will share his journey from working in the kitchen garden at Kew to his time at Hole Park
- Saturday 28th September 11am-4pm Mount Ephraim Gardens and Plant Fair. www.plantfairsroadshow.co.uk/events/autumn-plant-fair-mount-ephraim-gardens

Autumn Show

The Autumn Show is to be held in Ash Village Hall on Saturday 20th September.

Non-members are invited to enter the Open Classes for Photography, Cookery, Flower Arranging and Size and Shape Matters (see below). Entry is free, simply email the categories you wish to enter to sunrise@landmine.me.uk with your name, contact details by 6pm on Friday 19th September or post to Liz Rath, 13 The Street, Ash by 6pm the

same day. Bring entries to the Village Hall on the Saturday from 9am to 10.40am ready for judging.

The show will be open for viewing from 2.30pm with prizes awarded at 3.45pm. Refreshments will be available

Autumn Show Open Classes

Photography Max 4"x 6" (10cm x 15cm)

It's hot

Keeping Fit

Looking Down

Garden Visitors

Size and Shape

Rudest vegetable

Heaviest marrow

Your biggest vegetable

(not entered in previous Classes)

Twin- or entwined fruit or vegetables

Longest runner bean

Flower Arrangements

A miniature arrangement in a child's toy

The Sea, the Sea

Reach for the sky

Max width 4" 10cm

Max width 16 "40cm

Max width 24" 60cm

Cookery

Cheese straws

Fruit or herb jelly

Yoghurt cake

(to the recipe below)

Harvest loaf

4 individual fruit tartlets

Easy yoghurt cake with lemon, lime or orange drizzle

Ingredients

3 eggs

125g/4 ½ oz full fat Greek yoghurt

120ml/4oz sunflower or other neutral tasting oil, plus extra for greasing

180g/6oz caster sugar plus extra for the glaze

180/6oz plain flour

2 tsp baking powder

Pinch of fine salt

1 lime, lemon or orange, finely grated zest and juice and zest for decoration

Method

Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C fan/Gas 5. Grease the sides of a 23cm/9inch round cake tin and line the base with baking paper.

Mix together the eggs, yoghurt and sunflower oil in a large bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients (apart from the lime/lemon/orange juice) and beat together until well combined.

Tip the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for about 30 min or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

While the cake is cooking, make the glaze. Mix the lime/lemon/orange juice with an equal volume of caster sugar (eg 2 tablespoons of juice with 2 tablespoons of sugar) and set aside to dissolve. Sprinkle in the extra zest to add colour to the top of the cake.

Leave the cake to cool in the tin for 10 min, then turn out onto a wire rack. Brush the glaze over the top and leave to cool. Further decoration optional.

Ellen Willmott and RHS Wisley

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the Royal Horticultural Society decided to issue 60 medals to the cream of the horticultural world. They still do award the Victoria Medal of Honour, but there can only be 60 holders at any one time.

The original awards were made to 58 men and 2 women. The women who could not be ignored were Gertrude Jekyll, the rather portly Victorian lady usually portrayed wearing boots and glasses with very thick lenses and Ellen Willmott, a rich, more glamorous lady who did not attend the original award ceremony, much to the disgust of the establishment. At the time she was in Aix-les-Bains in France, one of her three gardens. She had another in Ventimiglia Italy, but her main residence was Warley Place, outside Brentwood. After her death, the house was pulled down, and the gardens abandoned, but they are gradually being restored by volunteers although the site itself is maintained as a nature reserve by the Essex Wildlife Trust

As well as being very rich, Ellen Willmott was also renowned for her treatment of her 104 gardeners, one of whom was not given leave on his wedding day. She had over 50 plants named after her including the plumbago, Ceratostigma willmottianum, a rose and a corylopsis. However

the plant most associated with her is the giant thistle *Eryngium giganteum*, given the common name Miss Willmott's ghost. The story that she (maliciously) scattered the seed in other people's gardens is probably (but disappointingly) untrue.

Sandra Lawrence's talk on Ellen Willmott was followed by a visit to RHS Wisley, which Ellen Willmott was instrumental in acquiring for the RHS. George Wilson, an industrial chemist and Fellow of the RHS bought the 60-acre farm at Wisley and transformed part of it into experimental gardens. The Oakwood area became a wild garden, with a rock garden, streams and ponds. Among the many famous visitors were Gertrude Jekyll and Ellen Willmott. When George Wilson died, Ellen Willmott persuaded Sir Thomas Hanbury to buy the gardens for the RHS.

During our visit, we were able to visit the recently opened Oakwood Summerhouse, built to recognise Ellen Willmott's contribution to Horticulture and to Wisley and to the RHS.

Liz Rath

Ash Heritage Group

Hidden in Plain Sight: Self-Guided Tour 12th-21st September

Explore the history of Ash on a self-guided tour. Learn about architectural and hidden features you may have seen but never noticed before as part of Heritage Open Days 2025. Information will be accessible for free via QR codes and from the Archive Room at Ash Village Hall on the dates below. Also, a souvenir booklet will be available to buy.

Archive Room Exhibition 19th-20th September 10am-2pm

Tour information will be more accessible in the archive room with seating and an A4 large print of the booklet to read. There will be many more photographs and examples from the village exhibited, plus a variety of items for a hands-on experience showing differences in building materials etc.

Ash Heritage Group hosts the community coffee morning on Saturday 6th September. All the usual stands will be there, sumptuous cakes and bacon rolls will be aplenty and the raffle prizes will be amazing. This will also be an ideal opportunity to preview the Heritage Open Days exhibition (details above). How often do we miss these "hidden in plain sight" features when we dash to the shops!

YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE!



Ash Village Hall



Community Lifesavers are working with us to provide **FREE** training in delivering effective **HANDS ONLY** cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use a defibrillator.



Date: FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER 2025

Time: 12- 1pm

**Venue: Ash Village Hall, Queens Road,
Ash, CT3 2BG**



**SPACES ARE LIMITED! TO BOOK A PLACE TO
LEARN THESE ESSENTIAL LIFE SAVING SKILLS,
PLEASE EMAIL: freecpr.defib@gmail.com**

**We will give you the confidence to act quickly and
effectively if someone has a cardiac arrest.**

Sessions are free and delivered by volunteers. Donations to Community Lifesavers (CIC) are welcome

Ash Wildlife Friendly Village

Grant Award Success

We have been awarded £366 from Dover District Council's Community Grant Scheme. This funding will support our efforts to engage youth organisations and schools in activities that celebrate and protect biodiversity and ecology. Over the next six months, we'll be creating a vibrant programme of events and activities to inspire young people and deepen their connection to the natural world.

Citizen Science Month

At the time of writing, we have had more than 25 reports submitted as part of our first Citizen Science Month in August.

Locations range from private gardens to allotments, the churchyard and Jack Foat fields.



Sightings recorded include dragonflies, Cinnabar Moth, young hoglet, Jersey Tiger Moth. Bird calls recorded included Great Tit, Goldfinch, Tawny Owl, Green Woodpecker.

Thanks to everyone who took part, including the resident who submitted a photo of a Puss Moth. These stunning insects are full of surprises — they can squirt formic acid at predators when threatened.

Citizen Science Month may be over, but please continue to make recordings of sightings which can contribute to a better understanding of the amazing biodiversity around us.

We're encouraging the use of the free app, iNaturalist, to log sightings. It's easy to use and connects your records to a global database of wildlife observations. If you're using iNaturalist, please join the "Ash Wildlife Village" project so your sightings are included in our community records.

Prefer pen and paper? No problem! Jot down your sightings including what you have seen, where, when and any details about the sighting such as numbers or behaviour. Send them to us at ashwildlifelifevillage@gmail.com

Leanne Stead

ASH WITH WESTMARSH WI

Meeting at

ASH VILLAGE HALL

Thursday September 7th 2025 2.30pm

(Every 2nd Thursday in the month)

This Month Our Speaker Is

JEFF & SYLVIA WAGNER

The Talk Title Is

PHANTASMAGORIA

A MODERN MAGIC LANTERN SHOW

Everyone is welcome to check us out and find out about the various activities we have going on.

It's not all Jam and Jerusalem you will be surprised...

“Look us up on www.thewi.org.uk

Enter your postcode to bring up the Ash with Westmarsh WI pages”

For further information please contact

sec.ashwmarshwi@yahoo.com or phone 07814 520796

Come along and see for yourself.

Non-members £4.00

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

It was with great regret that the League of Friends had to cancel the Summer Fair at the hospital on 19th July due to severe weather warnings. However, this has now been rescheduled for Saturday 13th September 2025 11am – 2pm. It will be held in the hospital grounds where there will be fun for all the family: stalls, games, entertainment, dog show, refreshments and much more. Entry and car parking is free. Do come along for a fun day out!

East Kent has just launched a big and exciting new appeal for 'Surface Guided Radiotherapy Technology'. This advanced technique is the biggest leap forward in radiotherapy treatment that Kent has seen for years and its implementation at Canterbury Hospital will enable faster and more accurate treatment. Sessions will take less time allowing more patients to be treated. There will be no need for patients to have tattoos or markings and it will enable more complex cancers to be treated locally. This will all make treatment much more comfortable for the patient.

The implementation of SGRT at Canterbury will cost over £800,000 of which The League has pledged £400,000. Every £1 raised or donated will be matched by £1 from an amazingly generous legacy left to The League by a Whitstable resident and NHS supporter, Hilda Levi.

In the coming months members of the Ash Group will be doing all that we can to support this initiative and we ask for your ongoing support please.

Our next fund-raising event will be the Community Coffee Morning 10am – 12noon in the village hall on Saturday 6th September when we look forward to seeing you.

Hazel Damiral

- **The Parish Magazine is your magazine. Share your news, views and memories with us.**
Email rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com or post hard copy at 69 The Street, Ash.

Come to the Friends' **Annual General Meeting**

The Friends of St Nicholas Church Ash will hold their AGM
at the Church from 7pm on

**Thursday 11th September
2025**

A welcoming glass of wine followed by a short business
meeting and then a talk
by

The Rev. Caroline Turvey

Drinks and nibbles will be served after the talk

All welcome



An event organised by
the Friends of St. Nicholas Church Ash

For more information,
contact 01304-812049

Friends of Elmstone and Preston Churches

Services and Events at St Mildred's

Sunday 12th October: Family Harvest Service and Tea

This Service, with Communion, will be at 10.30am. Gifts of fruit, vegetables and dry goods will be very welcome which will be taken to Age Concern at Sandwich for use in their kitchen and for donations to those in need.

There will also be a Harvest Tea between 2.30 and 4.30pm. If you can offer a homemade cake, please let Penny Cornet know. 01227 722513. There will also be a small selection of stalls, hopefully along the Church path, but otherwise in the Church.

Churchyard Update

We hope to have a further working party in the Autumn.

Upcoming Events at Elmstone Church

Happy Hours

These events are held on the first Friday of the month from 6.30 pm, on Church Meadow, if possible, otherwise in the Church. The next dates are 5th September and 3rd October.

Concert in December

We are pleased to tell you that the Lees Court Ensemble will be performing for us once again at 5.30pm on Friday 19th December. Further details will be available later on but please make a note of the date and time now.

Our Services for September - Month A*

- 1st Sunday – 7th September - Holy Communion, Elmstone, 10.30am
- 2nd Sunday – 14th September - Family Service (No Holy Communion as Month A*), Preston, 10.30 am
- 3rd Sunday – 21st September - Holy Communion, Elmstone, 10.30am

Refreshments are normally served after all our services.

Elizabeth Timms

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**SATURDAY 13TH
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11AM-2PM
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Goodnestone Music

Saturday 6th September 7pm

Song Recital with Greg Tassell – Tenor – and - Spencer Payne - Piano

It will be great to welcome Greg and Spencer to Goodnestone for this lovely song recital featuring Finz's A Young Man's Exhortation and pieces by similar composers.

Tickets £12

September 20th 7pm

Jazz in the Church with Will Inscoe - Jazz Piano - Sylvie Noble-Vocals

Following his wonderful solo Jazz piano concert in 2024 Will returns to Goodnestone with Jazz vocalist Sylvie Noble for what promises to be a fantastic evening of Jazz.

Tickets £12

For further details and tickets for all concerts

www.goodnestonemusic.com

Sunday September 14th 3.15pm

Holy Cross Church, Goodnestone

Choral Evensong to Celebrate our Patronal Festival

Sung by Goodnestone Choir and Friends

Stanford in A

Evening Hymn Balfour-Gardiner

All welcome. Refreshments in Goodnestone Village Hall afterwards.

Denyer Kittle

Sandwich Local History Society

'Churchill's Bandits: the relationships that sustained Sir Winston in the war and wilderness'. Thursday 11th September 2025 7pm-8pm Guildhall Sandwich – Jury Room.

Adrian Phillips, a much-published historian of the 20th Century, will give a talk about the personal relations important to Winston Churchill. Those featured will include Max Beaverbrook, Brendan Brecon and a young Bob Boothby. Copies of his book, Winston's Bandits: Churchill and his Maverick Friends will be available along with his other works.

Free to members. Non-Members £5.

Michael Vaile

Sandwich Age Concern

Creativity, Community and Craft

Get ready for a colourful celebration of local talent as Age Concern Sandwich proudly hosts its Craft Fair this September. From artisan stalls and homemade treats to creative displays and live entertainment, this lively event promises something for everyone—and all for a brilliant cause.

Saturday 13th September, 10am-3pm, Age Concern Sandwich, Cattle Market, Sandwich CT13 9AP.

Taking place at Sneller House, Cattle Market, the fair will transform our centre into a hub of creativity and community spirit. Whether you're a seasoned craft lover or simply after a great day out, you'll find plenty to enjoy.

Here's just a taste of what's in store:

-  Artisan craft stalls
-  Competitions and prize draws
-  Cakes, savouries and pastries
-  Hot and cold refreshments
-  Dolls' houses display
-  Plant sale
-  Art and model displays
-  Live music

It's a fantastic opportunity to shop local, support small makers, and enjoy Sandwich at its most vibrant. Plus, every penny raised supports the vital services Age Concern Sandwich provide for older people across East Kent—from dementia support and day clubs to wellbeing activities and community outreach.

Admission is free, and our café will be open all day for when you need a break (and a slice of cake!).

So bring your friends, your family—and your shopping bags—and join us for a fun-filled day that supports a great local cause.

Suzanne Winham

Staple

10th Family Fun Dog Show

Sunday 14th September, Staple Village Hall CT3 1LB.

Taking entries from 10am. The event will officially open at 11am and finish at 4pm.

Interval attraction will be a display by Beach Buddies working Newfoundlands.

There will be stalls and sideshows, snacks and light lunches, charity stalls, shade and cover for dogs, The Cinque Port Rescue Dogstacle agility course.

Classes include

1. Dog with the Waggiest Tail
2. Golden Oldies
3. Dog that looks most like its owner
4. Best Rescue
5. Puppy Class (up to 12 months)
6. Prettiest Bitch
7. Most Handsome Dog
8. Dog with the most appealing eyes
9. Junior Handler
10. Dog the Judge would most like to take home
11. Fastest Sausage Eater
12. Best in Show (winners of the above 10 classes, not class 11)



Dog show classes will be held in the main ring and entry is £2 per dog per class.

Entries will open from 10am with the first class starting at 11am. Rosettes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each class.

Class 11 – Fastest Sausage Eater – will have three classes – small, medium, large dog. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st dog in each section.

Meet the Artist

Laura Drury is a photographer whose 2025 exhibition, Blue Skies & Rosy Tints, has recently closed. Here, she reflects on life in Ash and the development of her creative practice.



My husband Bob and I have lived in Ash for 13 years. In fact, it's our first home together, as this is the second time around for both of us. We love the village, which has everything we need within easy walking distance and great places to walk with our dog Max. Bob's a musician, and my job is booking and promoting his shows and concerts all over the UK. In order to design posters and promotional material, many years ago I taught myself how to use Photoshop and this was the beginning of a slippery slope as far as my photography obsession is concerned!

I've always enjoyed photography but in the last eight years or so it has become very important to me and has enabled me to explore and develop my own creativity. Although I enjoy doing portraits, my main love is using my editing and post-processing knowledge to produce creative images in either an impressionistic-style, using intentional camera movement and multiple exposures, or abstract. My final images rarely look like a true representation of what was there! I guess I aim to *create* a picture rather than *take* a picture.

I always put some of my work into the Ash Art Exhibition, which is an incredible showcase for local talent – of which there is so much! It's an absolute delight when my pieces sell. For the last three years I have also had an exhibition at the Horsebridge Arts Centre in Whitstable, which is a lot of work but certainly worth it. There's nothing quite like seeing all your work framed and on the walls of a gallery! I've also had some of my images published recently. I produced a series of images on the subject of stage fright and was thrilled when these were published in Amateur Photographer magazine.

I'm a member of the Royal Photographic Society and received my Licentiate (LRPS) in 2019, but the greatest thrill was when one of my abstract images was used recently for the front cover of one of the RPS magazines.

I'm always learning and am currently in my second year of a creative development course, which pushes us to express feelings and conceptual ideas with photography – hence the stage fright project!

- www.lauradruryphotography.co.uk

Photo Memories

The photograph of Cartwright & Kelsey school pageant in last month's parish magazine recalled memories of 1980s school days for one reader.

Andrew Minter was pictured in the melee of children celebrating the 700th anniversary of the founding of Ash, dressed as a fictional 'station master' of the long-gone Ash Town railway station which was once a stop on the East Kent Light Railway.

The photo is one of many collections held at Ash Heritage Centre, Ash Village Hall.



- **Where you there? Be sure to get in touch with your memories of life in Ash.**
Email rebeccasmithash@gmail.com or post hard copy to 69 The Street, Ash.

Garden Jottings for September

This month's jottings once again see us hoping for some rain or at least a little cooler weather.

Early in the month, pots and containers need to be looked over and tidied up, indeed the main chore at this time of year is dead heading and tidying remaining faded blooms and browning foliage. Add a little more compost to the surface to replace any that has been washed away with the amount of water that pots need, even after rainfall. This is especially true when dealing with tightly packed pots. Geraniums, Hostas and Agapanthus seem to repel water from overhead, so insert your hose or watering can spout right under their leaves to ensure the water can be absorbed, not running off or straight through. Going back over again will ensure the water has been absorbed.

It is good policy to add some feed as the compost will have been depleted of goodness by this time. Try to save any "grey water" to reuse it in the garden to conserve our shrinking stocks.

When trimming lawn edges, take a bucket, collect the trimmings, tidy the border, and remove any weeds. Just turning over the soil and defining the gully at the lawn edge will give a well-tended neat effect.

Get ready to buy Spring bulbs to plant later this month. Tulips however can be left until October to be planted. Nerines, which grow best planted up against a fence or wall in full sun, would benefit from some water to encourage buds which should be emerging soon.

Plant up biennial seedlings to grow on. Keep them well watered and weeded. Cuttings of half-hardy perennials can be taken now. If you are short of space, it is a good plan to set about 8 cuttings around the edge of a small pot. Choose nice sturdy non-flowering shoots, nip out the tip and remove lower leaves. This will leave a stem about 4" long with 3 sets of leaves. Use some sharp sand or fine grit mixed with soil and water in well. In this way you will have strong little plants to put up in Spring.

It is a good idea to take stock and see if you can add plants to extend the season. Michaelmas Daisies, Golden Rod, Helenium, Sedums and Japanese Anemones are all good hardy plants to enhance and brighten up borders. Dahlias and Chrysanthemums should also not be forgotten. Plants of Asters, Rudbeckia and Zinnias that you have grown from seed

earlier in the year can also be added any dull areas. If you find that orange-flowered Crocosmia and Red Lucifers are becoming just a heap of leaves, remember, they benefit from an occasional water to encourage flowering. These Montbretias will benefit from splitting in late Autumn after flowering, or better still in Spring.

Sometimes it seems hard to have something attractive in the border especially when having watched a gardening programme or seen an article in a magazine. Remember you only see a cameo, but it makes us think the whole garden is always a picture. One of the hardest things to achieve, not to mention, the amount of time and money and endless thought and energy this entails. However judiciously taking cuttings, saving, and growing seeds and splitting plants can increase your stocks cheaply and easily. Always pot up any surplus plants that you have when dividing plants in late Autumn, taking new sections from the edge of a clump of perennials and discarding the old woody centre piece. In this way we can have plants to share or swap for different varieties, one of the nicest things to do when walking round whilst dead heading and tidying is to remember which holiday, garden, or person that our plants have originated from.

Collect seeds of Hollyhocks, Marigolds, Larkspur and Nigella (Love in a Mist). Cut a stalk and place upside down in paper bags, hang up to dry then transfer to used envelopes after labelling and storing somewhere dry.

Crocus, Snowdrops and Aconites can be planted later on this month, try to place them around the base of trees or shrubs, to be seen near front or back doors or by pathways near the house or even in pots in doorways to enjoy in Wintertime.

Plant up cauliflowers, spring cabbage and lettuces where potatoes and onions have been removed from the vegetable patch. Onions should have had their top growth bent over to send any food from the leaves into the bulb. After a week or so they should have turned brown, and they are ready to harvest. Do not water them over this period or the roots will regrow making them harder to lift from the ground. Lever them gently with a fork to lift them carefully to prevent damage to the base of the onion. Stake top-heavy brussels sprouts and kale against wind and rain damage. Keep checking brassicas for caterpillars, butterflies even seem to find their way through the fine netting and can easily cause devastation very quickly.

Keep picking beans and tomatoes regularly to encourage more. Herbs can be tied in bunches and hung up to dry then they can be crushed and put in jars. Mint, chives and parsley can be potted up to make good plants to use in the Winter. If your beans finish cropping in spite of watering and mulching, try to leave some big old pods of beans to mature on the plant before saving them after drying them for next year's use.

Wisteria, which sends forth long tendrils in August, should either be tied into framework if needed or cut back to 4-5 leaves from the joint. In February or March, the stems can be further reduced to promote flower formation.

Apple trees can also be trimmed in late August-September, taking back overlong side shoots, being careful of any fruit remaining on the tree. However, this summer with such hot days, apples are ripening early and Autumn raspberries giving a good crop. Early windfall apples, chopped and cooked go well with lovely blackberries from the hedgerows. A few of any soft fruit, blackcurrants, gooseberries, raspberries, and blackberries with a little apple make a lovely compote when poached with a little water and sugar. If there should be too much juice it can be thickened with a little cornflower, but of course, the best desert at this time of year is Summer Pudding and cream!

Order bare root roses, shrubs and fruit trees and by the end of the month bring in pot grown citrus and olive trees or move to a very sheltered position, take in any house plants, Azalea, Orchids, or tender succulents that have been outside for the summer. Stop watering cacti and succulents now apart from Christmas cacti, Cyclamen and Amaryllis you have kept dry, and which should be started into growth by watering now. Give them a couple of inches new soil after removing some of the spent old soil and replacing with a top dressing of grit.

Now a couple of tips to end with. Pay attention to your feet! Try to wear good supporting shoes not wellies or crocs or old worn out shoes as we need agility, mobility and balance when working or walking outside. Remember to label any plants or seedlings your plant up, especially useful to take along to Horticultural Society meetings as they restart and hold plant sales again.

Looking forward to successful harvests and an Indian Summer with light rain at night – well we can hope! But as always count your blessing and good fortune in having a wonderful area to live and garden in Ash.

Christine Brown, President, Ash Horticultural Society

Stories From the Archives (65)

Counting our Forebears in Ash

Conducting the recent tours of the churchyard during the church fete in June proved to be a thought-provoking enterprise, and not just for the revelation of the stories which emerged from each weather-beaten gravestone after Yvonne Feeley's and this writer's research. It also became very tempting to try to calculate (very, very approximately) just how many former inhabitants of Ash actually lie buried there.

But how could one do that? There are so many imponderables. Our burial registers go back less than 500 years – but are pretty accurate for that period. The churchyard was very much smaller until just two centuries ago, yet since then has undergone three large extensions. Simply counting the several hundred surviving tombstones is a non-starter because until recent times only a fraction of interments were ever marked with a memorial, and before the early 1700s virtually none. We usually assume, generally, that the population has increased steadily over the centuries – but is that correct in every case? Our present church building is nearly 750 years old but at least one church or chapel stood on the site previously. For how long? And we must remember that most of our parish churches were preceded by burial grounds and places of worship which existed outdoors for generations before any wooden or stone edifice was erected. Nevertheless, your guide was bold enough to make an estimate and came up with a figure of between 15,000 and 20,000, which – although a rather wide span - may still be below or above the real figure.

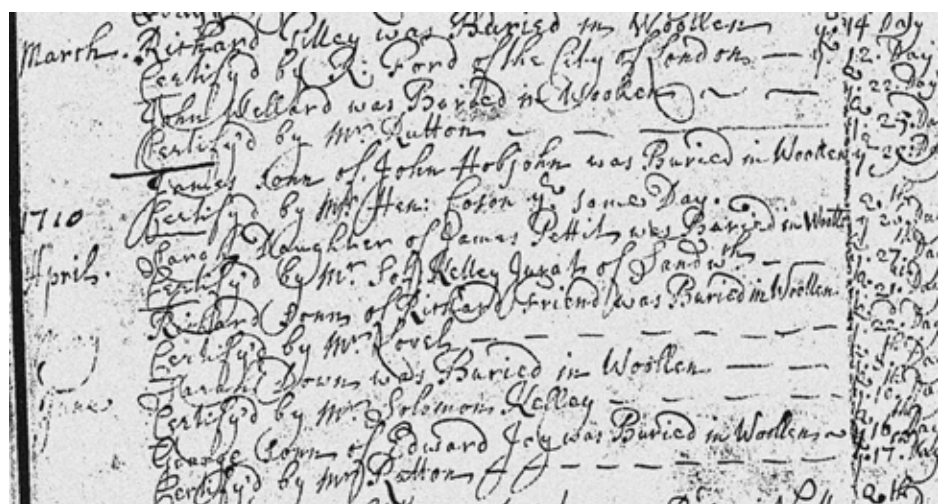
Careful analysis of the burial registers would be a good start. One could certainly count how many entries there were in each year, decade or century and this would cover the position between the Tudor period and today, perhaps tentatively suggesting a trend extending into earlier times. Doubtless we'd find in the registers a gradually diminishing number of burials from modern times back to Queen Elizabeth I's time, when these records were first begun in Ash. And yet we'd also find some widely varying trends too.

For example, let's look at the ups and downs of Ash's population figures over a couple of centuries or so. From the late 13th century until the 1860s the geographical size of the huge parish of Ash didn't change. Then, for just a century, the parish of Westmarsh was hived off from Ash and its newish chapel at Ware became a fully-fledged parish church. Then it reverted to part of the parish of Ash once more. But even allowing

for some of Ash's population being removed in this way in mid-Victorian times, that wouldn't fully explain why Ash's inhabitants numbered no more in the 1920s than they had exactly a century before – just over 2,000. And this during a period when England's population as a whole had *trebled* as a result of larger families, reduced infant mortality, economic expansion and buoyant immigration from eastern Europe.

The reasons are not difficult to find. Rural poverty deepened from the early 19th century onwards, particularly around here, and the mass movement of the young from agricultural work into the coastal towns and resorts served by the new railways affected Ash as much as any other country parish. The demise of the carrier service by coach occurred in the wake of the new railway boom of the 1840s, '50s and '60s but for most of the following years Ash was not served by a railway and soon became a comparative backwater.

In the 18th century population growth in Ash had been steady, rising by about a third in a hundred years, with the number of burials gradually rising during the century from a dozen or so annually until a consistent figure of around 30 interments a year was reached during the second half of the century. But there were anomalies. Why were there 60 deaths in 1719, when each year either side saw figures in the low twenties? In 1710 we have another "outlier." We know that Ash was stalked by smallpox in that year and we learn that "many children died." This is borne out by the facts, as 46 burials that year, including 15 minors (under age 21) contrast with less than half that total in 1709 and 1711, with only



a quarter of those being minors. Each corpse was compulsorily buried in a shroud of English wool, duly certificated as required by law, other than those whose families were wealthy enough to pay the fine. (The Julian calendar of the time has been used for these computations, the year beginning on 25th March rather than on 1st January, with England and Wales adopting the Gregorian calendar only in 1752).

Let's switch to even earlier times and count the burials each year during Elizabeth's reign (the earliest we can calculate with accuracy). In Good Queen Bess's time we see burials varying from a dozen and a half a year in the 1570s to over 50 during years of severe winters or visits by the plague, as in 1593 and 1594. It's very difficult to establish a consistent trend which might be extrapolated into the immediately preceding centuries but it would not be unreasonable to claim around 3,000 to 3,500 Ash residents being interred during that Tudor century alone, not a great difference from the Georgian figures. We have no way other than approximately calculated guesswork to count those in earlier centuries. A gradually diminishing figure as one goes backwards? Perhaps, but what about the 1340s and the Black Death? Do we assume the national trend applied to Ash, with between a third and a half of our population perishing? How long did it take for those population figures to recover? Do we take it that Ash's 15th century population (the one preceding the Tudor century) would have been *smaller* than in the 13th and early 14th centuries? And we haven't got near Saxon times yet!

Is that 15,000-20,000 figure looking a bit small now? What *is* certain is that, whenever we wander through the churchyard, especially that part immediately surrounding the building, we have to acknowledge that there are many, many more souls resting beneath the grass than we'd ever have guessed.

The original burial registers of St Nicholas, Ash, dating from 1558, are cared for at Canterbury Cathedral Archives. Microfilm copies are also available there and a transcription of the entries in a non-chronological form is held in the Ash Heritage Centre. Facsimiles of the originals are also available online at Findmypast.com

Peter Ewart

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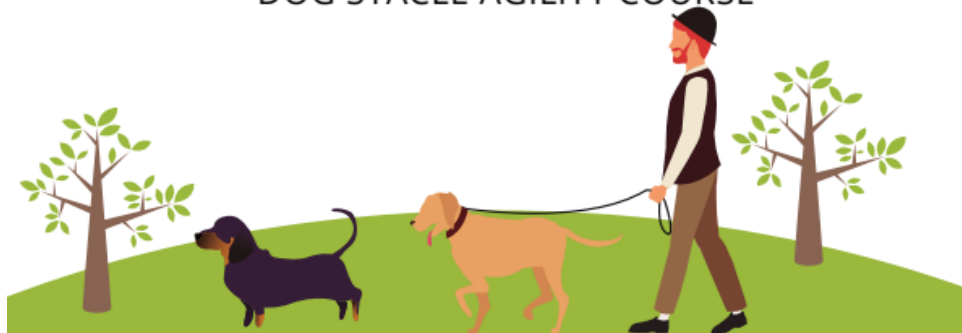
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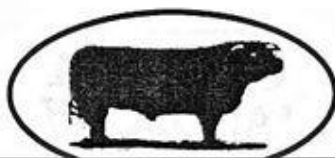
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