



December 2011

Issue No. 62



Winter Newsletter



Jubilee 2012



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New Ash Green Social Committee is a not-for-profit, independent body of local residents who organise social events for New Ash Green. In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee we will be incorporating Village Day into the Jubilee celebrations over the Jubilee Weekend. To help make this year even better why not get together with neighbours and host a stall or help out with the event?

Village Day 2012 will be on 2nd June on the **Sportsfield** (a new location). Other events on that day will include a hog roast and the Film Society's film. The festivities will continue on Sunday with a live jazz band, children's and youth pentathlon and a fancy dress party for children; on Monday there will be a family walk/treasure hunt and a tea party for older folk.

If all this is to succeed it is vital that more people join the Jubilee Co-Ordination Team. Could you spare a few hours a month? We

also need sponsors and other fund-raising ideas.

Above all we want as many people as possible to get involved to make this weekend the best ever for New Ash Green. Put it in your diary and help your neighbourhood to take part, especially with the events for children. Contact your Residents' Society or NAG Social directly: email (committee@nagsocial.co.uk), call into Pets' Pantry or see our website: www.nagsocial.co.uk.

Fireworks 2011

The rain held off, 3,000 people rolled in, the sky was lit up and the woods echoed to the sound of fireworks at the



Social Committee's annual firework display. Thanks to all who came to watch and especially to Pets' Pantry and the volunteer marshals who ensured it all went smoothly.



Can you help the Village Association?

The Village Association is managed by the Council of Management (COM) – 9 people elected by all the members of the VA. A **Finance & Strategy Committee** meets regularly to advise COM on its annual budgets. It also has an important role in forward planning, to ensure that the VA continues to meet the needs of the village. The Committee is reviewing the VA's resources of people and money and the way it delivers its services at this time when all our budgets are under pressure and significant changes may have to be made.

Membership of the VA's Committees is open to anyone and volunteers are always welcomed. There is a particular need now in the Finance & Strategy Committee. If you think you can help please contact the VA Office – you just need to have a degree of common sense and share an enthusiasm for New Ash Green; specialist skills are not necessary.

25 Years of the Oxfam Shop



Oxfam ...

... was founded in 1942 in Oxford. The charity now comprises a confederation of 15 organisations working in 98 countries worldwide. £86 million was raised in 2010-11 by around 750 shops in the UK.



The New Ash Green Oxfam shop opened on 27th February 1986 with Mary Biggs as the first Shop Leader. After Mary left, Dorothy (Dot) Stammers took over but sadly she passed away soon after taking on the post. Hilary Watson was then appointed Shop Leader with Mary Biggs as deputy.

In the first ten years they established the Oxfam shop in New Ash Green as a popular community asset. They achieved so much by dealing with the mountains of donations that came into the shop, and handling all the appeals for help when disasters struck around the world.

After ten years, Hilary and Mary retired so Frances Ralton and Angie Crabb took over as Shop Manager and Deputy respectively. Janice Linfield later became Deputy before becoming the Manager of the Gravesend shop in 1999. In 2009 Sarah Jennings became Voluntary Deputy Manager and after fifteen years Frances has now left us to move back to her native Scotland, to be succeeded by Sarah.

Our shop has seen good and bad times. In 2005 it was given a face-lift with a new green and cream frontage and, inside, cream and beech slatted walls with a new floor and brighter lighting to give the shop a much improved appearance.

If you visit us on Red Nose Day, you may find another 'Shop Manager' in some strange mode of dress. Over the time that Frances has been Manager she has raised quite a large sum of money for Comic Relief by being sponsored

for dressing up.

But the shop has also suffered its own flood disasters three times in the last fifteen years. The worst flood followed vandalism in the unit above. The water poured through the back sorting room where Frances was working. She had the frightening experience of ceiling tiles falling all around and water pouring in like Niagara Falls on top of her. The shop had to close for six weeks after this to enable the place to dry out. Everyone rallied round, the volunteers pulled up their sleeves and got stuck in to clearing the back room – having to fight with Frances when her office desk chair had to be thrown! All our supporters held on to their donations until we opened again after the flood.

The Oxfam shop is now a firm part of the community. We like to welcome people into the shop for a chat as well as to browse. We sell so many different things including New Products such as hand cream, lip balm, washing powder, gift cards and notelets and many more. We have a wide range of donated books, clothes for ladies, men, and children, accessories and homewares. If you can't find what you are looking for, just ask and we will let you know when the item comes into the shop.

Over the past 25 years our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly raising as much money as possible for Oxfam. The total amount raised since the shop opened is £1,046,000. All thanks to the people of New Ash Green and the surrounding area.

Big Community Fund Success



New Ash Green featured as one of the first areas, alongside Hever and Hextable, to receive a grant from Sevenoaks District Council's Big Community Fund in September. Grants totalling £7,500 were given to the three local communities.

The Council's Big Community Fund makes grants every month worth up to £3,000 to help fund community projects and improvements.

Cllr Carol Clark, who represents Ash and New Ash Green, successfully bid for £2,500 for urgent repairs to the New Ash Green Youth Centre. The money will pay to fix a leak in the roof, which was causing damage and damp, and to repair

rotted windows and doors as some could no longer be opened. Without the vital funding the building could have deteriorated further leaving an important community facility at risk.

Cllr Pat Bosley, the Cabinet member responsible for overseeing the Fund said, "The Big Community Fund has got off to a good start. The Councillors appraising the applications were encouraged by the geographical spread and innovation of the applications. We look forward to receiving further applications."

Grant applications for the Big Community Fund are made through

Sevenoaks District Councillors. Anyone with ideas for funding can find out how to contact their local Councillor by ringing 01732 227000 or visiting www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors.

The deadline for applications is the first Monday of each month.

Website Directory

We would like to add a free list of businesses in or very near New Ash Green to the VA website (www.nagval.com).

If you would like to be included, please send your name and contact details, a very brief description of what you offer and a photo or logo (100Kb max.) to admin@nagval.com.



Local Councillors

Kent County Council
David Brazier

Sevenoaks District
Cameron Clark
Carol Clark
Alan Pett

Tree Warden Walks 2012

Our seasonal walks in and around New Ash Green will take place quarterly, as follows:

Sunday 4th Feb – 'Beating the Bounds of New Ash Green', meet 10.30am at the Royal Oak pub on Chapel Wood Road.

Sunday 6th May – Spring Bluebell walk, meet 10.30am in the orchard at New Ash Green.

Sunday 5th August – Summer walk, featuring meadows, hedgerows, Northfield and Chapel Wood, meet 10.30am in the orchard, finishes at the Royal Oak pub.

Sunday 4th November – Autumn walk, featuring Ash Church, Ridley, and village views, meet 10.30am in the orchard.

Don't miss the annual **Wassail** on **Saturday 7th January** – 4.30pm at the Village Hall. Bring torches and something to make a noise with.

For more information, please visit www.nagwoodlands.btik.com or phone Carole on 874976.



Adoption of Foul Sewers



The maintenance responsibility for foul drains has changed from 1st October 2011. Every resident has had a booklet from Thames Water entitled the “Important legal changes of the ownership of your sewers” put through their doors. The illustrations that are shown in this booklet are not clear for New Ash Green, so we have been communicating with Thames Water to obtain clarification. See the diagram below.

1. **FOUL WATER** is from toilets, bath, shower, kitchen sink, wash basin, washing machine dishwasher etc.
2. **SURFACE WATER** is rainwater from roofs, driveways, paths, patios, garages, garage courts and roads.
3. The changes will only affect **FOUL WATER DRAINS ONLY**. All surface water drainage will remain the same, i.e. individual residents', Residents' Societies' or Village Association's responsibility, except for adopted roads which are still Kent County Council Highways.
4. **WHEN YOU HAVE A FOUL DRAIN PROBLEM**, call Thames Water 24 hour telephone number—see the box on the left.

It would also be helpful to inform your Residents' Society and the Village Association (01474 872916), so that we can monitor any changeover problems and be aware of works that have an impact on the landscaping, so that we can see that they are reinstated properly.

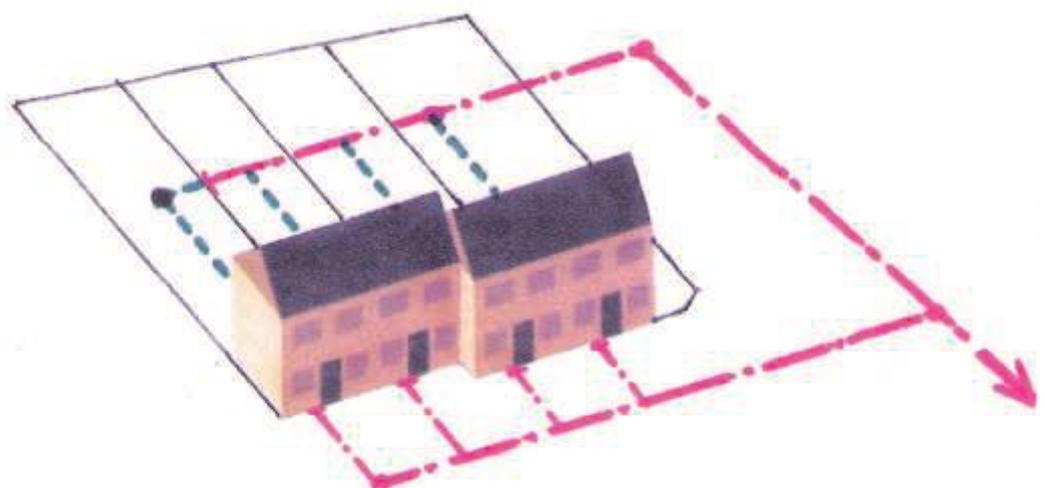
5. Drainage plans are held in the VA Office and can be viewed during office hours Monday to Thursday 9.00am-4.00pm. Further advice can be obtained from Terry Vivian, on 07710 214 966.

NOTE: Redhill Wood differs from the above as householders own all their gardens including the front garden. Therefore, the situation for Redhill Wood **front, side and rear gardens** will be the same as the rear gardens in the diagram, i.e. responsibility for the foul drain remains with the resident until the drain either passes to another property (neighbouring resident or RS/VA) or joins with another shared drain.

Thames Water

When you have a foul
drain problem call the 24
hour telephone number:

0845 9200 800



- - - - - Resident/owner's responsibility only within building & their garden
- - - - - Public sewer/drain extended responsibility

Friends of Ash Church

Many people will have noticed the slow decline or disappearance of pubs, post offices, village stores, independent booksellers, butchers, bakers and grocers from both rural and urban parts of Britain. These all go to make up what we like to consider as part of a British way of life. With some 10,000 medieval churches across the country, many of which are listed buildings, another symbol of British life is seriously under threat in every county across the land. At a local level the church of St Peter and St Paul, Ash – known as Ash Church by most of us, needs a lot of TLC to maintain its fabric and keep it as a usable building for its congregation and for the milestones of personal and community life such as christenings, weddings and funerals. It is also a beautiful building and on a sunny day many will have taken the single file footpath across the fields to enjoy it, the peace that reigns around it and the thoughts and memories it

often provokes.

It was in this context that a group of people some five years ago decided to form Friends of Ash Church to raise funds to assist in maintaining the fabric of the church and FOAC now numbers some 80 plus supporters. Some of our members worship at the church and others believe it is important that a building that is several hundred years old and has been an integral part of this rural community for centuries should be available to their children, grandchildren and future generations to enjoy too. If you share that ethos then please support the FOAC fundraising events which are advertised locally or even better join FOAC as a member, For more details please refer to the Ash Church website www.ash-church.org.uk or contact Mike Rose (Membership Secretary) on 01474 873445 or Joe Whittaker (Chairman) on 01474 874045.



Weathervane
A recent project, fully funded by the Friends, has been the restoration of the church's weathervane which is the highest point of the church.

Film Society 2012

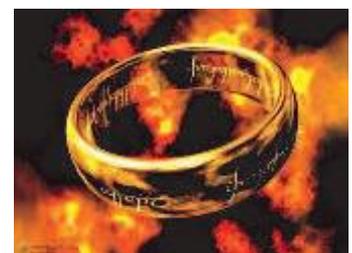
New Ash Green Village Hall (Minnis entrance)

- Sat Feb 4th Bridge on River Kwai
- Sat March 3rd French Connection
- Sat April 7th Lord of The Rings – Fellowship of the Ring
- Sat May 5th African Queen
- Sat June 2nd Three Colours Red
- Sat July 7th Harvey

NAG FILM SOC is also working on a week's film festival to take place in Spring 2012.

To ensure quality we have restricted our choice for this season to those films which have the highest five star rating in the critical Radio Times Film Guide. We have also chosen films from many different genres to provide an interesting and varied programme.

Doors open 7.30pm.
Supporting film at 8.00pm.
Tickets £5 on the door.
Wine/coffee/tea/fruit juice/ biscuits/ices available at 7.30pm and in the interval.





Police

To contact the Police ring
101
or in an emergency dial
999

PCSO Rachel Rowbottom
07969 584203

PCSO Steven Vincent
07772 226159



Police - Beating Garage Crime

Garages are often no more secure than a garden shed. Yet they are regularly used to house valuables like bikes, power tools, freezers and sometimes even motor vehicles.

The most vulnerable part of the garage is the main front door, but also consider the security of any side doors.

To increase the security of your garage:

- Check your household insurance covers theft from your garden and outbuildings.
- Install security lighting where possible. A low energy fitting with a dawn to dusk sensor will be the cheapest to run and offer the greatest deterrent against crime.
- Keep all doors and windows locked at all times, even if you are close by in your garden.
- Fit a simple shed/garage alarm.
- Install an anchor point in the

garage to secure items like motorbikes or ladders with a padlock.

- An up and over garage door should be fitted with an appropriate padlock with hasp and staple on each side of the door.
- Mark all property in the garage using UV, etching or forensic marking.

Secured by Design (see: www.securedbydesign.com) has a list of approved companies who offer accredited systems for securing garages.

Digital Switch Over

The digital switch over of TV services takes place in this area on 4 April 2012.

Around this date two things will happen:

- the analogue transmitters providing the basic BBC and ITV programmes will be switched off;
- the power of the existing **FreeView** digital transmitters have their power increased by a factor of 10.

If you have a modern TV set (with a TV/DTV button on the remote control) and currently receive **FreeView** programs via an aerial you will not have to change any equipment and can expect a significant improvement in picture quality particularly on the ITV channels. If you have an old non-digital TV set you will need to change it or add a low cost set top box converter.

If your TV is digital TV compatible (DTV) but you are operating it in the analogue "TV" mode, to watch only the 5 BBC and ITV channels, you will need to check its operation on "DTV" and if your aerial is

OK (remember that reception on the ITV channels will be improved following the switch over).

If you want to receive an adequate digital signal, your non subscription options are **FreeView** and **FreeSat**; the first uses a conventional TV aerial in or outside the house and the latter a satellite dish.

While there is little to choose between the two options in terms of programmes, in some locations the possibility of locating a satellite dish in an unobtrusive location makes it preferable to using a conventional aerial which may have to be mounted high on the property.

Unfortunately many TV retailers and aerial contractors are unaware of the restrictions on aerials in NAG. It is important that you ask them to take them into account when providing you with advice. For information on the discreet location and sharing of satellite dishes and aerials email:

knightscroft@tiscali.co.uk.

A Community Plan for Ash-cum-Ridley

The Government's Localism Bill aims to reform the planning system and give the public more influence over decisions that affect their lives. Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council is proposing to take advantage of the new powers to draw up a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will influence planning decisions in the parish and help to ensure that local views are taken into account in any plans, for

example, to regenerate the New Ash Green shopping centre.

The Parish Council will work with the Village Association and Sevenoaks District Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be based on full consultation and will have to be approved by everyone in a local referendum before it takes effect.

Covenants and Byelaws

For the benefit of those who are new to New Ash Green, we list here the covenants and byelaws which all who buy property in the village agreed to when signing their contract. They are designed to benefit us all by setting out some basic rules for living in a close-knit community.

PERSONAL COVENANTS

1. To pay the association the annual contribution due from the Purchaser in respect of property within the village.
2. To pay the Society the annual subscription due from a member.
3. To keep the premises in good structural repair (including the garden walls and fences shown on the plan marked 'A' with a T on the inside of the boundary).
4. To keep all decorative finishes on the external elevation of the house on the premises and any garage on the estate owned by the purchaser in good order and in particular to renew the paintwork not less often than once every four years using colours and materials approved by the Association.
5. To keep all windows on the premises regularly cleaned.
6. To keep the doors of any garage on the estate used by the purchaser closed except when open for the purpose of access.
7. To permit the Society to have reasonable access to the premises and to any such garage as aforesaid to enable it to perform any works undertaken in the covenants set out in Clause 4.
8. To require that any tenant or other occupier who proposes to take possession of the premises enters into direct covenants with the association and with the society to guarantee performance and observance of the covenants set out in Clause 5 during the period possession by the occupier.
9. To require that any transferee of the premises enters into direct covenants with the Association and with the Society to be bound by the covenants set out in Clause 5 as if the transferee were the purchaser named in this transfer.
10. To remain bound by the covenants set out in Clause 5 until the direct covenant specified in the preceding paragraph have been entered into by a transferee of the premises.

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

1. No part of the premises except the garage shall be let separately from the whole or used otherwise than for the purposes of a private dwelling.
2. No sign or advertisement shall be displayed on the premises so as to be visible from outside the premises except that a name plate not exceeding 4 square inches in size may be displayed at an entrance.
3. No alteration shall be made to the external appearance of the house on the premises (including the colouring scheme) except with the prior written consent of the association.
4. No alteration shall be made to the garden walls or fences on the premises except with the prior written consent of the association.
5. No building or other structure shall be erected in the curtilage of the premises except with the prior written consent of the association.
6. No exterior aerial shall be erected on the premises and no person shall be permitted to interfere with any television rediffusion equipment on the premises.
7. No car caravan or similar vehicle shall be parked in the curtilage of the premises otherwise than inside a garage or (in the case of a private car not standing higher at any point than 5 feet 6 inches above ground and not bearing any sign or advertisement) on a driveway leading to a garage.
8. Nothing shall be done or omitted to be done on the premises that may

interfere with the amenity of other property owners or occupiers on the estate.

BYELAWS

1. No tree or other plant shall be cut pulled up or planted.
 2. No litter shall be deposited otherwise than in a litter bin.
 3. No radio or other electrical reproducer shall be played except as may be authorised by the association on special occasions.
 4. No vehicle shall be used in such manner as to create an unreasonable degree of noise.
 5. No bicycle or powered vehicle shall be ridden or driven otherwise than on a vehicular carriageway.
- PROVIDED THAT this byelaw shall not apply to a bicycle ridden outside a residential estate and not on a footpath or footway.
6. No vehicle shall be parked on a residential estate otherwise than in a car park.
 7. No car caravan or other vehicle standing higher at any point than 5 feet 6 inches above ground or bearing any sign or advertisement shall be parked on a residential estate except for the purpose of loading or unloading.
 8. No obstruction shall be caused on roadways or elsewhere.
 9. No person shall enter any area reserved by the association for a special use without complying with all conditions that may be imposed by the association from time to time regulating entry and conduct within that area.
 10. Nothing shall be done or omitted to be done that may interfere with the enjoyment of amenity by other persons.
 11. No horse shall be ridden or led otherwise than on a vehicular carriageway or on land designated as a permitted ride by the Village Association. For the avoidance of doubt a permitted ride shall be defined in writing by the Association and its use shall be subject to the observance of special conditions as shall from time to time be laid down by the Association.
 12. No person shall cause or permit any dog owned or kept by him or in his charge to enter or remain on any part of the amenity land unless the dog be and remain in proper control and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person.
 13. No person shall cause or permit any dog owned or kept by him or in his charge to enter or remain on any sports field or children's playground on amenity land.
 14. Every person (other than a registered blind person) who owns or keeps or is in charge of a dog which is on any part of the amenity land shall immediately remove from the amenity land any faeces deposited by the dog.
 15. No person shall cause or permit any motor vehicle owned or kept by him or in his charge to enter or remain on any part of the amenity land unless it complies in all respects with legislation for the time being in force in relation to the use of motor vehicles on the public highway, including in particular (but not exclusively) the requirements that (i) there is in force in relation to the vehicle a policy of insurance satisfying the requirements of Section 143 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (ii) the vehicle complies with all regulations made pursuant to Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act relating to the construction and use of vehicles and equipment (iii) there is fixed to and exhibited on the vehicle a current vehicle excise licence as prescribed by Section 1 of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971.
 16. No person shall cause or permit any motor vehicle owned or kept by him or in his charge to remain on any part of the amenity land for any purpose other than (i) access; (ii) the use of amenity land for the purpose of recreation.

New Ash Green Village Association Limited

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New Ash Green
Longfield
Kent DA3 8HH
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Fax: 01474 872409
E-mail: admin@nagval.com Website: www.nagval.com

VA OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The VA Office is open to residents
9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Thursdays —
Closed to residents on Fridays
The office is closed for all statutory holidays

If you would like to write an article for our next Newsletter, either as a member of a Club or Society or to write an article of local interest, please provide it to VA Office no later than 11th May 2012.

Save New Ash Green's Native Bluebells

Across the UK our iconic native bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is under threat. The risk comes from imported Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) which are more vigorous and hybridise readily with the native species, potentially changing our woodland landscapes for ever. Nestled within the village boundaries, New Ash Green's woodlands are particularly susceptible, and the only way to protect them from invasion through cross-pollination is to systematically eradicate Spanish bluebells from surrounding areas. Sad as it is to remove healthy plants, the more invading plants we can get rid of, the more successful we will be in protecting our English woodland bluebells for the future.

With the permission of the Village Association and Residents' Societies, we are able to remove Spanish bluebells from communal areas, but the biggest pool of Spanish invaders lies in our own back gardens.

Please help to protect this wonderful woodland wildflower by removing Spanish bluebells from your garden.

As an added incentive, any householder who is prepared to dig up and hand over their Spanish bulbs as they come through next Spring will be offered English ones to replace them with.

Look out for posters and leaflets over the coming months.

For more information about the threat to our native bluebells, and for tips on how to spot the difference, follow the links on the New Ash Green Woodlands Group website (www.nagwoodlands.btik.com) or email: ashtreewardens@btinternet.com.

With your support, this project could be a great success story for the village, our woodlands, and the wider community.



Hyacinthoides non-scripta



Hyacinthoides hispanica