



August 2012
Issue No. 63



Summer Newsletter

A Jubilant Jubilee

Items included in this issue:

<i>Golden Oldies Tea Party</i>	<i>p.2</i>
<i>Neighbourhood Plan Future VA Spending</i>	<i>p.3</i>
<i>Water Meters Longfield Station News NAG Film Society</i>	<i>p.4</i>
<i>KFRS Recruiting for on-call Firefighters</i>	<i>p.5</i>
<i>Plans for a new Fire Station in NAG</i>	<i>p.6 &7</i>
<i>NAG Sports Pavilion</i>	<i>p.8</i>
<i>Burglaries Trend in NAG</i>	<i>p.9</i>
<i>Grass Verge Trial Bluebells Under Threat</i>	<i>p.10</i>
<i>NAG Children's Centre NHS Give Blood</i>	<i>p.11</i>
<i>Prize Crossword</i>	<i>p.12</i>

Village Day this year was a resounding success with the opening ceremony being carried out by Jack Payne (Gillingham Football Club) and the 'May Queen' and her attendants. This year Village Day was moved to the Sportsfield to allow more stalls, which in turn would help the day to develop and grow. The main arena events this year included Sylvera School of Dancing and the Black Eagles acrobatic display team. It was estimated that during the course of the day over 3,000 people attended, which was an increase based on recent years. With more activities and facilities it was one of the best Village Days for a long time. NAG Social would like to thank all of those who helped, as it is people's generosity and help that allows these events to take place.

NAG Social are already looking forward to next year, where again they would like to expand even further and start the day earlier to



accommodate so much more. NAG Social look forward to seeing you there.

Jubilee Celebrations This year was unique in that it was the Queen's Jubilee and as such New Ash Green put together a "Jubilee Committee". The aim of the committee was to raise funds and then to use those funds to facilitate activities for the Jubilee festivities. As a result of people's generosity and through hard work and commitment, the committee put together

a programme of events over the weekend. On Sunday there was a magician in the marquee along with an afternoon of live music. A family picnic was enjoyed by many which included activities for children, ranging from pony rides to holding birds of prey. The 'Mike Richards Firebird Band' played into the evening.

Again, NAG Social would like to say a big thank you to all those who donated, either financially or through their time, without whom they would not have been able to achieve what they did.



Centre Road
New Ash Green
Longfield
Kent DA3 8HH
Tel: 01474 872691
Fax: 01474 872409
E-mail: admin@nagval.com
Website: www.nagval.com

Special feature inside on potential job opportunities for on-call firefighters. Also find out more about plans for a new fire station in the New Ash Green area, and how you can help prevent countryside fires this summer. See pages 5-7





Golden Oldies Tea Party

As part of the Diamond Jubilee events, a special 'Golden Oldies' tea party was held in the Village Hall on the afternoon of Monday 4th June and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

The Hall was dressed with celebratory bunting which looked amazing! Helpers from NAGARA and the VA Office arrived and the tables were laid with red, white and blue decorative covers. Sandwiches were made by three willing helpers from Age Concern; home-made scones, still warm from the oven, arrived kindly donated by NAGARA members and office staff and these were served with clotted cream and home



made strawberry jam – mouth watering! There were specially made jubilee cupcakes donated by 'The Granary' which were the *pièce de resistance* and were enjoyed by everyone.

The cinema screen was put in place and a continuous film of royal events covering the Queen's reign was shown throughout the afternoon by Stuart Richardson. Ayelands provided a photographer and photographs were taken throughout the afternoon, including some with the 'Queen' who was in attendance - although she did look a bit flat at times!

A special quiz with a royal theme was provided which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, particularly the winners who all got a prize. Finally, all good things come to an

end and this event ended with a raffle with lots of prizes - so there were a lot of winners and a lot of smiles.

Special thanks to Grant and 'The Granary' staff for kindly donating the wonderful cupcakes, all the ladies who provided the mouth-watering scones, the Age Concern trio led by Ann Black who made the sandwiches, Ray and John for helping with the tables and chairs, Stuart Richardson for showing non-stop film, the VA for sponsoring the event and a big THANK YOU to everyone concerned with the arrangements for the afternoon without whose help the occasion would not have been so successful.



A huge thank you to all those who helped make the Tea Party a resounding success!

A good time was had by all!

Village Landscaping Projects



The Greenland Committee has been looking at various landscaping projects in and around the Village.

One suggestion was that the roundabout on Chapel Wood Road/ Ash Road, the main road entrance into the Village, needed improving. One of the committee, a landscape designer, produced a sketch scheme of low-growing, low-maintenance ground covering

shrubs with a brick-paving perimeter. Both the planting and paving can be seen elsewhere in the village. A new welcome sign, and some minor alterations to the hedge, are also intended.

Subsequently, the Greenland Chairman and Landscape Manager met with representatives from KCC (who are currently responsible for the roundabout) with a view to

adopting it. KCC supported the idea and the VA was offered funding by County Councillor David Brazier.

A full plan of the work was produced and later agreed by the Amenity Committee and KCC.

Work was started in the week beginning the 16th July.

It is hoped that with this redesign, future fixing of 'personal' signs will be discouraged.





A Neighbourhood Plan for Ash-cum-Ridley Parish

Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council and the New Ash Green Village Association are starting work on a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Sevenoaks District Council's planning officers are providing support for this and Action with Communities in Rural Kent has also given valuable help

How will this affect you?

The first major step, later this year, will be to send a questionnaire to all the people in the parish to ask for their views on the area in which they live and how it can be protected and improved.

To help us design the questionnaire, so that it asks the right questions, we would like as many people as possible to tell us what is important to them. We have prepared a short 'scoping' survey which lists the subjects we think

are important. Issues like local shops, affordable housing, transport, noise, anti-social behaviour, internet access, and so on. You may not agree! So we want to hear from as many people as possible. This short survey will only take a minute or so to complete. Copies are available from the Parish Council and the VA Office.

A Neighbourhood Plan will not, in itself, lead to change; but when change needs to take place, the Plan will ensure that it happens in a way that is both controlled and beneficial to the community. Most importantly, the local community will have had their chance to be a part of the Plan.

You choose ... the Future of Ash, Ridley and New Ash Green

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Government wants local people to be more involved in deciding what goes on in their area.

A Neighbourhood Plan will supplement the District Council's Local Plan by focusing down on an individual parish or community.

It will provide more detail on where development might take place and how important features should be protected.

Neighbourhood Plans must agree with the District's Local Plan and, once completed after full consultation with local people, they must be checked by an independent expert and endorsed by a community referendum.



Planning Future VA Spending

Village Association contributions have been frozen for the last four years. The present contribution will remain at the current rate until the end of this year.

Previously, the contribution rate has been reviewed in June and, if necessary, increased from 1st July. This year the VA's budget and accounting years have been put on the same January to December basis. In the past, budgets have been for a 12-month July to June period. This change means that in future, contributions will be reviewed later in the year and any change in the rate will take effect from 1st January.

We are very aware that the VA is spending residents' money, and conscious of difficulties that the

current circumstances are creating, so will be looking very carefully at the Budget for 2013. All expenditure is examined to make sure that the administration and maintenance of the Village is carried out as efficiently as possible and that residents get value for money from their contributions.

VA spending falls into two categories. The first is what has to be spent on maintaining landscaping, paths and lighting to the present standard and on day to day administration. It is covered by the annual VA budget.

The other is capital or investment spending. One sort of capital spending is on items that fall outside the annual budget. The equipment used by the Greenland

labour force such as tractors and mowers is one example. Another is spending that provides savings or an amenity benefit. A cost saving example is the possibility of replacing existing street lighting bulbs with modern high efficiency units that use less electricity.

A capital expenditure planning system has been set up that looks ahead three years to identify necessary capital spending and projects that would have longer term benefits.

The process is intended to identify what the VA's future financing need will be and also to be a basis for canvassing residents' opinion about their priorities and the expenditure that they feel should be funded.



A Neighbourhood Plan

Have your say — questionnaires available from the Parish and VA Offices.





Water Meters to be Installed



South East Water have a programme to install a free water meter to all houses in NAG that currently do not have one. If you are scheduled to have a meter you should already have received directly from SEW, a brochure titled **'Changes to the way you pay for your water'**.

Installation work on site is scheduled to start from October this year and around three weeks

before your meter is fitted you **should receive an 'Installation update card' from SEW giving an approximate installation date.**

Once your meter is fitted you will receive, again from SEW, a **'Welcome' brochure, along with some suggestions for water efficiency.**

If you have any queries please contact SEW on their website at

www.makingeverydropcount.co.uk or by telephone on 0333 000 0003. There will also be two open drop-in sessions in the VA Meeting room where SEW staff will be available to answer any questions. The dates are:

- Thursday 13th September 1.30pm-3.30pm
- Monday 17th September 5.30pm-7.30pm

People Power Wins Through



Southeastern had proposed that, from December 2012, one of the two fast trains each hour (off-peak and on Saturdays) would no longer call at Meopham or Longfield.

This would have resulted in a very uneven train service to and from Longfield with trains departing for

Bromley and London within 15 minutes of each other every hour which would have had a serious impact on local residents.

Following a campaign by regular train travelers, the VA, the Parish Council, local Councillors and Members of Parliament,

Southeastern have now confirmed that they are dropping their proposals and the current timetable will continue unchanged.

Common sense prevailed and collectively people power won through! Well done to all!

NAG Film Society

Programmes for the new season will be available at the end of August. Be sure to come along and enjoy the films on offer.



New Ash Green Film Society

New Ash Green Film Society starts its 2012/2013 season on Saturday September 1st with a screening of **"THE ARTIST", 2011, P.G., 100 min., Dir.: Michel Hazanavicius, Stars: Bernice Bejo and Jean Dujardin.** Premiered in 2012 and screened at all major cinemas throughout the U.K.

Guardian Review by Peter Bradshaw -

"An older established star helps a talented young woman on the path to fame, only to see his career decline as she hits the big time... This has to be the first time that I have actually wept tears of joy... This happens every time I watch the last sequence of this exquisitely judged, gloriously funny and achingly tender film by French Director Hazanavicius... unexpectedly passionate... A

miracle of entertainment..."

There is no membership fee for NAGFILMSOC, just turn up on the night of the show at the Village Hall, New Ash Green. Screenings are open to all NAG Residents and those from the surrounding areas.

Films shown are a mix of current films and older classics, there will usually be a supporting film to accompany the main feature.

To ensure quality we only screen films which have excellent reviews from industry critics.



We now have both digital and reel-to-reel equipment and 5.1 surround sound.

As well as showing quality films NAGFILMSOC is intended to be a social meeting place. Films start at 8:00pm. Doors open at 7:30pm. Come early enjoy a coffee, glass of wine or ice cream. Meet friends, make new friends.

The programme for the full season will be published at the end of August on posters, leaflets and on 'The Friends of New Ash Green Village Centre' website at:

www.fonagvc.co.uk

(Click on 'Societies' tab)





Looking for
work to suit
childcare?

Need some
extra shifts?

Maybe you could be an on-call firefighter

If the new fire station in New Ash Green goes ahead, we will be looking for all kinds of people to work as on-call firefighters.

You would be paid to be on-call for specified hours, whether we need you or not, and full training is provided. It's a great job that makes a real difference to your local community, so find out more and register your interest on kentfirejobs.info



Want a
challenge
at the
weekend?



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

Plans for fire station in the New A



If plans are accepted, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) will be improving emergency response in this area by building an on call (part time) fire station in the New Ash Green area.

The Service has carried out a very detailed review of the whole county and found that in some areas, there were more fire stations than needed, usually due to historic reasons rather than modern day demand. However in other areas, they needed to increase emergency cover. New Ash Green is one of these areas.

The planned station will have on-call staff and one fire engine. This means firefighters will not be based at the station, but will be called in when needed to pick up the engine and attend an incident. So, apart from training once or twice a week (mainly indoor and occasionally outdoor), the station will be not be in regular use.

What happens next?

Plans for the new station will be submitted to Sevenoaks District Council in the coming weeks. Once this happens, you will be able to see the plans on Sevenoaks' website and you will have the chance to have your say – for or against.

The design aims to fit in with the rural location. KFRS has been talking to nearby residents and after listening to their views hopes to be able review the plans in line with the local communities' wishes.

If planning permission is granted it is expected that building work will begin in January next year, with the aim of the new station opening in September 2013.

During construction KFRS aims to work with the contractor to ensure that there is as little impact on neighbours as possible, both on the site and on nearby roads. Hoardings around the site will reduce construction noise and the plan is to work with local schoolchildren on a competition to decorate the hoardings.

If KFRS finds that it cannot build the station here, the land would be surplus to their requirements and they would have to sell it on the open market.

For more information, visit www.kent.fire-uk.org

Job opportunities

If plans go ahead for the new station there will be career opportunities for on-call fire fighters in the New Ash Green area. KFRS are looking for people who either live or work in the New Ash Green area who are interested in a career as an on call firefighter to put their names forward now as an expression of interest.

On call firefighters often have other jobs. They may be looking for extra shifts, want to take on an extra challenge, or

perhaps want something to fit in with childcare.

You can be a man or woman, you must be at least 18 years old, be physically fit and have good levels of reading and writing (Certificate in level 2 Adult Literacy or equivalent).

KFRS is asking anyone interested to put their names forward now. There is no obligation at this stage, but if the station plans are approved they expect to start recruiting in the autumn.



Register your interest and get more details on kentfirejobs.info

Do your bit to help prevent deliberate fires

Fire crews are asking local people help put a stop to deliberate outdoor fires, by taking extra care of how they dispose of rubbish and unwanted household items.

Fly-tipping rubbish, as well as being an offence, is a blight on the area and provides fuel to deliberate fire setters. This leads to an increase in fires in the countryside.

In dry conditions, fires can rapidly spread out of control and have a devastating effect on wildlife and the surrounding environment. By following these important safety tips people can help to prevent fires starting in the first place:



- Don't discard cigarettes out of car windows
- Don't light fires in the countryside
- Contact your local district council to ask about disposal of unwanted furniture, or to report abandoned vehicles or fly tipped waste (Clean Kent 24 hour reporting line – 0845 345 0201)
- Extinguish bonfires and barbecues properly



Kent Fire & Rescue Service

For more information, visit www.kent.fire-uk.org



NAG Sports Pavilion

Under New Management

The Pavilion has a new Board. At the open meeting held in March it was **announced that two of the Pavilion's** long serving Directors (Alan Pett and Susan Heads) would be standing down. Bob Stinton, the remaining Director has stayed on and will be joined by four new Directors. Two of them (Stefan Klus and Bob Hamshare) represent the sports clubs. The other two (Colin Garratt and Mike Rose) are VA Council of Management members.

The new board of directors is committed to working with all users and the Village Association to improve the existing facilities and to widen the appeal of the club to its existing users, other village based organisations and individual residents.

What's in a Name?

More than you might think. The Pavilion is a limited company (New Ash Green Sports Pavilion Ltd. or NAGSPL for short). It was always known as the Rugby Club but, some **time ago, the name "Club" was** adopted to emphasise its wider role as a venue for use by the village as a whole for a wide range of sporting, social and cultural activities. It is open to ALL residents; membership is not required.

What does it have to offer?

The pavilion is situated on the edge of the village in over 12 acres of land bounded by Kentish countryside and



provides an ideal venue for a variety of sporting events, family outings, celebrations, fund raising and corporate events.

A fully enclosed child's play area and outside seating make it an ideal place for families to watch sport or enjoy a chat with friends. Children are welcome within the Pavilion the only restriction being that those under 12 should normally not be on the premises after 9pm.

The pavilion is home to New Ash **Green's sporting clubs** – Rugby, Football, Tennis and Petanque. These clubs are run by dedicated volunteers and offer a wide range of coaching facilities and teams catering for a wide range of age groups and abilities.

Indoors the Club attracts a diverse range of customers to an increasing number of entertainment based events and private functions, and we hope it will soon become the venue of choice for village organisations

and individuals planning fund raising events, meetings and parties etc.

Regular events

Come along and enjoy our "open mic nights" at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month and "Ark", an acoustic version of "open mic", every Sunday from 8pm in Bart's Bar, with refreshments available from the main bar.

Facilities for hire

In addition to the two main bars (both of which show SKY Sport) the pavilion houses a function room capable of accommodating 150 people (80 seated at tables) with a dance floor, fully licensed bar and kitchen facilities and a meeting room ideally suited to the needs of Residents Societies or club meetings

All these facilities are available for hire with or without licensed bars and the use of kitchen facilities. For more information please contact 07842 011376 or visit www.nagval.com.



NAG Sports Pavilion

Now under new management.
Come along with friends. No membership required.
Children welcome.



Opening Hours	Main Bar	Bart's Bar
Monday	5pm-11pm	Closed
Tuesday	5pm-11pm	Closed
Wednesday	5pm-11pm	5pm-11pm
Thursday	5pm-11pm	Closed
Friday	5pm-Midnight	5pm-Midnight
Saturday	Noon-Midnight	Noon-6pm
Sunday	Noon-11pm	Noon-6pm





Burglaries—A worrying Trend

It was recently noted that crime statistics for the period 1 April to 9 July 2012 were lower than for the previous year. The big and worrying exception was for house burglaries which had risen dramatically from 0 to 17 during this period. The Police are aware of this issue and investigations are ongoing.

A lot of burglaries take place on the spur of the moment when a burglar sees an open window or other easy way in. You can take simple steps to avoid this type of opportunistic crime.

In your home

- Lock all windows and doors before you go out or to bed
- Fit security measures such as intruder alarms, door chains and door locks. A spy hole lets you see who's at your door
- Avoid labelling house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands

· Don't leave keys (including car keys) or other valuables near doors or windows.

Around your home

- Make sure fences, hedges and gates are in good condition
- Avoid leaving side gates open and make sure ladders and garden equipment that could be used to force entry are not left out
- Keep garages and sheds locked and alarmed
- Store bins carefully so that they cannot be used as a climbing aid
- Never hide spare house keys outside or in a shed
- Dispose of packaging carefully - wrapping and boxes you put outside your house on bin day advertises what you have in your house.

If you are away from home

- Use timers for lights and radios - this will create the impression someone is home

· Cancel regular deliveries, such as milk and newspapers

- Make sure garden furniture is stored away and that sheds and garden gates are locked
- Ask a relative or trusted neighbour to pop in and move any post or junk mail from inside your door
- Arrange for the curtains to be opened and closed

· Check your insurance policy - some policies don't provide cover if you are away for more than 30 days

To access more information, sign up to the Kent Police newsletter. The newsletter provides information on recent crimes and statistics, as well as offering tips on crime prevention. You can sign up by going to:

www.e-watch.co/register.php

Please remember to look after your community and be vigilant at all times!



Kent Police

Refuse Collections in Jeopardy

Sevenoaks District Council provides us with one of the most efficient refuse collection services in the country. Unlike many local authorities they still collect all rubbish every week from close to every house.

However there is a real possibility that the Council may have to reduce the level of service, not because of spending cuts but because residents themselves are threatening to make it impossible to continue in its current form.

The Council's refuse freighters need to drive close to the collection points so that their staff can pick up the bags efficiently. Recently, parked vehicles on many neighbourhoods have made

access increasingly difficult. The **Council's Head of Environmental and Operational Services** has warned that if this continues they will have to review collections and may find it necessary to require residents to take their rubbish bags to a collection point which the freighters can reach. Obviously this is not an option that any of us want and it would only be implemented as a last resort. But if there is no improvement it may happen.

The problem is particularly serious in turning circles and places where the vehicles have to reverse, as well as near road junctions where parked vehicles can obstruct visibility and cause

a danger.

All residents are therefore asked to park sensibly and leave room for large vehicles to pass and turn. Remember it is not just refuse freighters that need unimpeded access, but fire engines, ambulances, delivery vehicles and the minibuses that take elderly people to the shops or day centres – some older people cannot walk the extra distance to the nearest place the minibus can reach.

Please be considerate and think where you park - otherwise you may have to take your rubbish to a collection point where the freighters can gain access!

Please be sure to report ALL crimes to the Police as all reports made form part of the statistical analysis to enable policing levels to be met.

999 Emergencies

101 Non-urgent crimes





Grass Verges Management Trial



Villagers may have noticed the grass verge opposite the Lambardes entrance on North Ash Road looks very different from the dozens of other verges throughout New Ash Green. We are conducting a simple 3-year trial to see what impact a different mowing regime has on various factors including biodiversity, amenity and VA running costs.

Instead of being cut every fortnight like most of the rest of the village, most of this verge will only be cut once a year – between July and September – and all the cuttings removed. A narrow strip around the edge of the verge has been cut regularly. Parish and County councils across the UK are adopting

similar practices for grass verges because there is good evidence that it benefits wildlife. And other landowners like the National Trust, RSPB, and the Wildlife Trusts are attempting to increase both the acreage and diversity of wild flower meadows they manage.

Allowing the grasses and other plant species to flower and set seed provides food sources and habitats for wildlife, including insects and birds – and can also look more interesting as numbers of wildflowers increase. **Most of Britain's wildflower-rich grassland** has been lost to agricultural improvement, development or neglect. This mowing trial could be part of national efforts to help begin to reverse that trend.

This area is being closely monitored. The nearby residents support the trial.

Key questions:

1. Will there be an increase in wild flowers or more interesting species?
2. Will the new management regime save time and money or cost more?
3. Does it look more interesting, scruffy, or just OK?
4. Could this type of management be applied elsewhere in the village?

Please let us know what you think of this trial by either dropping a note into the VA Office, an email to admin@nagval.com or a comment on the website at <http://www.nagval.com/contact-us>

Grass Verges Trial

Let us have your views either via the VA Office, email at admin@nagval.com or by visiting our website at www.nagval.com



Bluebells Under Threat?

Not if we can help it!

The UK is host to half the world's population of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, but this iconic native plant is under threat from hybridisation with the Spanish bluebell, *Hyacinthoides hispanica*.

With your help, New Ash Green can become one of the first villages in the UK to eliminate the threat and protect our local woodlands.

However, this is not a small task. **One thing we've discovered is that 'the more you look, the more you find', and despite many days of hard work there is still much to do.** Happily, some neighbourhoods have already been declared free of Spanish and hybrid bluebells and others have been partially cleared, but a few with extensive areas of

non-native plants have yet to be tackled.

With such a small window of opportunity each Spring (while the plants are clearly identifiable) this project will take several years to complete, and many areas will need to be revisited to ensure **complete removal, but we're off to a great start** and the village-wide support has been fantastic.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this first year of the project, **either by volunteering for the 'big dig' across the neighbourhoods or by removing non-native bluebells from your own back garden.** We'll be ordering replacement English bluebell bulbs for planting in September and will contact individual householders at that time.

You can email us on: www.nagwoodlands.btck.co.uk

FIREWORKS

NAG Social are in the process of organising this years fireworks night. As per tradition it will be held on November 5th in the Meadow. They are hoping to build on previous years success and as such are looking to provide a spectacular show including more bangs, depth and colour. Advance tickets will be available from Pets Pantry from mid-October at a reduced cost compared to buying them on the night.

They are hoping to, once again, have some live musical entertainment during the lead-up to the fireworks show. If you have enjoyed it before then get your tickets early and come along with your friends and neighbours.





NAG Children's Centre –

they offer more than you think!

New Ash Green Children's Centre works in partnership with the Health Visiting team at the New Ash Green Health Clinic in Meadow Lane.

Their first aim is to provide access and facilities for a range of services that will enable parents and carers of children up to the age of 5 to feel supported and informed. Being a parent can sometimes feel overwhelming, but by working together as part of an integrated team with health and other organisations, they offer advice, information, and ongoing support.

The Children's Centre has also had a hugely successful first year of delivering free Adult Education courses. They have been well attended and feedback from parents has been amazing. A new programme will be starting in the autumn. Beginning on Friday 7 September for 13 weeks is the *Incredible Years* course which is designed to strengthen parenting skills and prevent behaviour problems in children aged 3 to 8 years. The emphasis is on helping to develop more positive interaction between parents and their children. It will be of particular benefit to parents of children with moderate to

severe behavioural difficulties, including those with a diagnosis of ASD and ADHD. *Confident Parent – Confident Child* will show how to identify different types of behaviours and how one can manage behaviour. This course runs from Monday 5 November for 5 weeks and will explore strategies for responding assertively to criticism and saying 'No' whilst giving praise appropriately and positively. It will help you to recognise ways of **building children's confidence and self-esteem**. Booking is essential for these courses and a crèche will be available if pre-booked.

Another facet of the work of the **Children's Centre is to support families** that are going through difficult times. Working with **Sevenoaks District Council's HERO** (Housing Energy Retraining Options) Project they offer practical advice and guidance on a range of options to help you plan your future housing and career and to better manage your finances.

These include:

- Homelessness and housing advice.
- Debt management
- Benefits
- Back to work calculations

- Retraining and further education options

The HERO Officer, Marcus Baker, delivers a well-informed and concise service tailored to each **individual's circumstances**. He will be based at the Children's Centre on Tuesday afternoons. To book an appointment, ring Shelley on 01474 872411.

If you are worried about how to deal with your children's bumps and scrapes, an Accredited First Aid Course will run on Monday mornings for 6 weeks from 6 September. Again prior booking is essential and a crèche will be available but for this course there is a charge of £10 to cover materials. Families need to register with the **Children's Centre in order to have access to any of their services and activities**. Registration forms are **available from the Children's Centre** and at Little Stars drop-in at the Village Hall on Wednesday mornings. Please telephone 01474 872411 to book courses or if you require any further information or help with registration. More details of all the activities and services are in their Summer Newsletter (available from the Centre) and on the Village Association website.



NAG Children's Centre
The Centre provides a range of services and facilities for parents and carers. For more information telephone: 01474 872411

NHS Blood and Transplant

Do something Amazing.....
96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood. **Please don't leave it to someone else.**

If you're generally healthy and aged 17 or over, pop along to the Village Hall (or other centres) and give blood. Sadly, blood levels are dropping, YOU can help to stop this from happening. The National Blood Service are next in the Village Hall on Friday 9th November 2012. Please come along on the day or pre-book an appointment via www.blood.co.uk.

NAG Epee Club

Jonathan Farmer of New Ash Green Epee Club recently competed in the SE regional Epee Championship qualifiers in the U14 boys category. Jonathan started the day strong and eventually won the event.

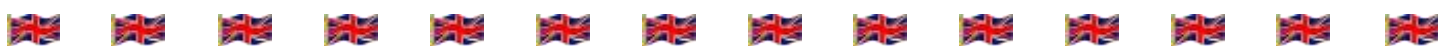
This result not only makes him the SE U14 regional Epee Champion but qualified him for the British Youth Championships held in Sheffield Other results include:

Yasmine Fosu 7th U12 girls,
Lorianna 9th U14 girls and Lior

Murphy 15th U14 boys.

All these fencers train at New Ash Green Epee Club held in the NAG Village Hall on Wednesdays: 5.30pm - 7.30pm. The club is run by head coach Taran Nicholls and each session is well structured with a warm up technical and free fencing available each session.

If you are interested in learning to fence please feel free to contact Taran on 07543 507851 or email: taran@epeefencing.eu





CAN YOU SOLVE THIS CROSSWORD?

There are 16 NAG specific answers hidden within, with special thanks to Ted Davis for compiling.

Competition entries must be received by 30th September 2012. The first correct entry drawn will win a **Digihome 22" LCD TV** (with built in DVD player) which has been kindly donated by the Co-Op. Please make sure that all completed entries are clearly legible, all entries should be placed in **an envelope marked with 'Crossword 63' and returned to the VA Office.**

The winner will be notified shortly after the closing date of 30th September 2012.

VA OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The VA Office is open to residents

9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Thursdays —

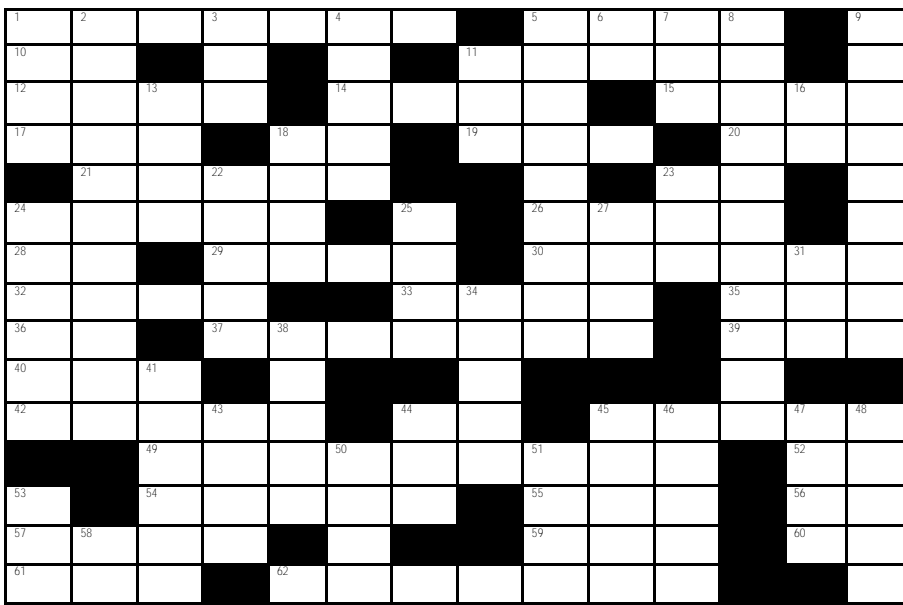
Closed to residents on Fridays

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

30th October 2012.

'PIT YOUR WITS' WITH OUR PRIZE CROSSWORD



By Ted Davis

- 55. and outs, door facility (3)
- 56. Hesitate to find a clue for this (2)
- 57. **Child's toy found on the summit (4)**
- 59. This Seb will not be a runner-up in July (3)
- 60. Concerning the Royal Engineers (2)
- 61. In addition, it sounds like a very small number (3)
- 62. (and 50D) Is this grain crusher really owned by a poor Dickensian boy? (7,4)

Down

- 1. A famous Guinness never to be found in our local (4)
- 2. **Here sang ... what? It's a (3,3,5)**
- 3. Americans buy it to make cars go (3)
- 4. Once more, profit (5)
- 5. Reg bathed to prepare for a round here (3,6)
- 6. As an alternative, private perhaps? (2)
- 7. Mark of approval, endless spasm (3)
- 8. Wears a bludgeon for a game here (6,4)
- 9. **Verde, Canaveral, Good Hope, Town ...? (9)**
- 11. Leaving the West behind, on foot (3)
- 13. Used in fencing (4)
- 16. Initially, not a closed seat of learning (1,1)
- 18. **The path, it's gone! (4)**
- 22. In these, one lays out money (5)
- 23. Reply, shortly (3)
- 24. Needlework in the South East extension (6)
- 25. Maybe a party held at our local? (4)
- 27. Hope not all the answers are so (4)
- 31. Me, for the last 20 years (1,1,1)
- 34. Squashed melon for the G and T? (5)
- 38. The house fell, according to E. A. Poe (5)
- 41. Indelible picture of the pageant? (6)
- 43. Quiet work to inform the Police (4)
- 44. Spanish hero who joined the detectives, perhaps? (1,1,1)
- 45. Morris, scale and Asia can all be this (5)
- 46. Estimate curtailed donkeys (5)
- 47. Sounds as if a drink is called for at the last resting place (4)
- 48. See 21A (5)
- 50. See 62A (4)
- 51. **As Bruce would say " to live here, to live here " (4)**
- 53. Play some cricket, vampire (3)
- 58. **Missing bit from be, or not be** (© W. Shakespeare) (2)

Name:

Address:

Contact No.: Email:

Across

- 1. First, a NAG resident takes the morning to mix up his letters (7)
- 5. **Adds up what's sold in 5D (4)**
- 10. The French (2)
- 11. Sap, beware! The insect loves you (5)
- 12. Sheepish creatures go every way except north (4)
- 14. Plant often accompanied by Vera (4)
- 15. Chickens may be found here, even if de-hyphenated (2,2)
- 17. Surpass the headgear (3)
- 18. Associated with Jam and Jerusalem (1,1)
- 19. **Decline to answer this (3) and**
- 20. **regret to answer this (3)**
- 21. and 48D sounds like a bonanza time for our dentist? (5,5)
- 23. **Where it's all happening (2)**
- 24. Martin, actor, on surviving Apocalypse, achieved lustre (5)
- 26. Ends confusion and retreats (4)
- 28. A clue, for example (1,1)
- 29. Let it stand (4)
- 30. Native of Gascony, not surprisingly (6)
- 32. Once was Holy, now just a legal document (4)
- 33. The village pub must sell a lot of these (4)
- 35. **Houseman's young chap from Shropshire (3)**
- 36. A clue, in other words (1,1)
- 37. One is probably not fit to join the rush to the railway (7)
- 39. These, before downs, are features of most lives (3)
- 40. Clear profit (3)
- 42. Sounds like a beau, our village, no longer new, in reverse with the centre removed (5)
- 44. Our supermarket, initially (1,1)
- 45. **One degree (1,1)**
- 47. **or another (1,1)**
- 49. Find them in Nissan cars, or much closer to home (4,5)
- 52. **When I'm in charge, I hear, I see (1,1)**
- 54. Woops! Mistake! Meant to be torrid, but I managed to rid myself of an R (5)

