



December 2012
Issue No. 64



Winter Newsletter

Ash Dieback Disease

Items included in this issue:

<i>Chairman's Report Building Something?</i>	p.2
<i>Council of Management Contributions Increase</i>	p.3
<i>Support Your Local Shops and Businesses</i>	p.4 & 5
<i>2012 Fireworks Silver Magpie Fairs Library Update</i>	p.6
<i>Fire Station Did You Know Art Club</i>	p.7
<i>Prize Crossword Prize Presentation</i>	p.8

Villagers will be aware of the intense media coverage of the recent outbreak of Ash Dieback disease. The Village Association is following developments closely to ensure that we do the very best for our wonderful ash trees. We have excellent links with Sevenoaks District Council and have also been developing a Woodland Management Plan over the last few months with the Forestry Commission, so are plugged in to the relevant advice networks.

At the time of writing (10th November) there is quite a lot of media coverage and speculation, but also plenty of guidance and scientific evidence beginning to emerge. We know that *Chalara fraxinea* has been identified in several woodland sites in Kent. It has currently not been identified in New Ash Green.

The following points are offered as guidance, based on several DEFRA and Forestry Commission sources, including the Secretary of State's Statement to the House of Commons on 9th November:

- Chalara dieback of ash is a disease of ash trees (*Fraxinus species*) caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea*. The

disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and it can lead to tree death.

- The *Chalara* fungus has caused widespread damage to ash tree populations across Europe since being first reported in Poland in 1992. It is especially destructive of common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and particularly affects young ash plants, killing them within one growing season. Older trees can survive initial attacks but tend to succumb eventually after several seasons of infection.
- Trees cannot recover from infection but larger trees can survive infection for a considerable length of time and some may not die at all.
- Mature trees will not currently be felled or removed, as they are valuable to wildlife, take longer to die and can help us learn more about genetic strains that might be resistant to the disease. Infection does not occur from tree to tree.

We'll continue to monitor the situation and follow government advice, including some hoped for guidance on the sustainable management of mature trees on

sites affected by *Chalara*.

For the time being we are keeping calm and carrying on.

Can you help us?

The VA's Greenland Workforce, our Village Tree Wardens and some members of the Woodlands Group are actively monitoring the health of ash trees around the village. If you would like to help please get in touch. If you spot an ash tree you suspect may be infected please call the VA office to let them know its location so that it can be checked out.

We are lucky in New Ash Green that as well as fantastic ancient woodlands we also have magnificent trees on land managed by Residents' Societies. If Residents' Societies have any ash trees they suspect may be infected, or need help in identifying trees or any infection, please let the VA know. That way we can record and monitor possible infections across the whole village.

There are many sources of advice and information on the internet including the Forestry Commission's Chalara webpages at www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara



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Chalara fraxinea (Ash die-back)



THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN THE VILLAGE— A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Chairman's Report 2012



Alan Pett—Chairman

Although not strictly within the ambit of the VA, I think that it is important to reflect upon the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in the village which were both highly successful and demonstrated that there is still a real sense of community within New Ash Green. The Sportsfield provided an excellent venue for Village Day, with a number of villagers having their first experience of this site and the Pavilion.

The Greenland workforce is to be commended on maintaining the village grounds in good order despite the extremely wet conditions experienced throughout the summer. Beside the daily tasks of grass cutting, pruning, tree works, litter/dog bin and play-area clearance etc., they also managed with a reduced resource to undertake some long overdue projects, most obvious of which is the clearance of overgrown shrubbery along the Ash and North Ash Roads by Colt Stead, and Foxbury. The southern part of the Millfield/Colt Stead buffer zone was opened up creating a much lighter and safer area. Minimal maintenance of the 'Milestone School' roundabout at the northern entrance to the village will become their responsibility. As this matures, we anticipate that this will become a most attractive

and welcoming portal to New Ash Green.

Members will be aware that the VA has held its contribution level since June 2008, at the start of the present national economic downturn. **This means that the VA's income has declined in real terms, of course.** Every effort has been made to identify efficiencies and provide services to the same standards as previously within budget. However, a number of 'must do' items of expenditure arise shortly which cannot be met out of reserves. These are considered to be essential to maintain the important community buildings within the village, and include items such as the replacement of the village hall stage and flooring, after nearly 40 years of service. Furthermore, ongoing freezes in contribution rate must inevitably lead to large increases later, larger the longer that an increase is deferred. For these reasons, we are proposing a modest increase in contribution rate at this time, essentially in line with current rates of inflation.

Financial constraint will continue to be applied, with a number of projects deferred, such as improvements to children's play areas. Routine maintenance and repair work continues to be undertaken

but it is inevitable that worthy projects will not be delivered as quickly as we would wish. It is particularly difficult at this time to perform the balancing act of doing what we feel should be done to maintain and enhance our village whilst keeping our costs, and hence contribution, down to a level that is affordable, and seen to represent a worthwhile investment in our high quality environment. As with many things in public service, many things need to be done which cost money, such as repairs to paths and repairing other damage, which show no obvious benefit by way of improvement, whilst new pieces of play equipment or new planting are all obvious and welcome.

As ever, I have to thank the VA's staff for their contribution to delivering our services, and to my colleagues on Council of Management, for whose support I am extremely grateful. I would like to pay particular tribute at this time to Susan Heads, who has stood down after many years, and whose contribution to the village, both through CoM and the Pavilion has been immense. Her departure emphasises the need for 'new blood' to join in and do their bit to helping New Ash Green remain such a special place.

Alan Pett—Chairman

...."the Queen's Jubilee celebrations demonstrated that there is still a real sense of community within New Ash Green"



Building Something?

Are you planning to carry out work on your property? Due to the covenants in the Village you will know that to change the external appearance of your property in any way at all (extension, conservatory, doors, windows etc) you need to obtain approval in writing from the Village Association before starting work.

The Amenity Committee that considers such applications

meets throughout the year at around 7 weekly intervals. However, on the first Saturday of each month, members of the Committee are at the VA offices from 10.30am until noon to give anyone informal guidance on their proposed works. It always pays to talk first before finalising your designs! Although these sessions cannot grant approval they can steer you away from

solutions that are unlikely to be accepted and towards those that are.

We know that someone will always disagree with the decision of the Committee, it was ever thus and undoubtedly will continue so. We are however tasked with making these decisions so why not come along and talk to us?

Amenity Committee

Council of Management

Alan Pett (Consultant Member)Chairman
 Mike Rose (Capelands).....Treasurer/Finance & Strategy Committee
 Brian Hardcastle (Over Minnis and Consultant).....Amenity Committee
 Colin Garratt (Consultant Member).....Greenland Committee
 Terry Vivian (Consultant Member).....Hardland Committee
 Keith Wale (Consultant Member).....Village Hall Committee
 Cameron Clark (Chapel Wood).....Communications
Two vacancies exist

VA Contribution Rate to Increase from January 2013



The Village Association Annual General Meeting on 6 November approved an increase of 2.6% in the contribution rate. The increase will take effect from 26 December 2012.

The contribution rate has been held at the same level since mid 2008. In that time, the general level of prices has risen by 13%. This increase has raised the cost of many of the expenses of

maintaining and administering the Village. That trend is expected to continue. The present rate of increase is 2.5% a year.

We always aim to be as efficient and economic as possible but there comes a time when the contribution rate has to be increased to make sure the VA has sufficient funds to carry out its day-to-day responsibilities, replace major items of equip-

ment and maintain buildings. Very often, putting off such remedial work increases the eventual cost.

We have tried to avoid increasing subscriptions in the present difficult climate but the choice is between modest increases now, in line with the present rate of cost increases, or a higher future increase.

Mike Rose—VA Treasurer

VA Contributions set to rise by 2.6% from 26th December 2012

Oxfam Fashion Show

On Saturday 13th October the New Ash Green Oxfam Shop held a fashion show, with live music, at our local village hall. The hall was an ideal venue for the event being very close to the shop and with plenty of free parking nearby.

A selection of clothing was modelled by shop volunteers, friends and family and the Hartley community choir, known as the Local Vocals, sang several songs with a sartorial theme.

The show started with the magnificent 70 strong choir on the stage singing a selection of songs including 'Blue Suede Shoes' and 'These Boots are Made for Walking'. The catwalk was then lit up

and the models displayed a variety of outfits intended for casual, every day and holiday wear. More songs from the choir followed before the interval which allowed time to **eat the ploughman's supper**, drink mulled wine and fruit juice and look at the items available to buy. The food was beautifully presented by our volunteers and was supplied to us by our local Co-op at a discounted price.

The second half featured formal and party wear and **songs such as 'Putting on the Ritz' and 'All That Jazz'**. The show closed with an energetic rendition of 'Rhythm of Life'. At the end of the evening all the clothing featured (that the

models hadn't decided to buy for themselves!) was available for purchase as well as other clothing and new items.

Sales of clothing, gifts, Christmas cards and fairtrade food raised nearly £300 and there was an additional profit of £515 which was used to buy a selection from the Oxfam Unwrapped range of gifts to help fund Oxfam projects.

A huge thank you to all those that participated and those of you who continue to support such a worthy cause.



Support your local shops

Ten good reasons to shop in NAG:-

- N**iche products
- A**rray of reputable retailers offering personal service
- G**reat value for money
- V**illage Centre – heart of your community
- I**ndependent shops – investing more in your Community
- L**essens your fuel consumption – environmentally friendly
- L**ocal shopping on your doorstep
- A**bundance of choice
- G**enerating jobs for local people
- E**ase of access – free parking

Your local Traders need you!



Residents are being encouraged to think local and show their support for NAG Village Centre. Shopping locally helps to boost, as well as keep local businesses going and supports your local community. It can provide a place where you can socialise and meet friends, it offers local employment, as well as catering for all your shopping needs!

Far from the hustle and bustle of big city living, our friendly Village Centre is home to many family owned businesses that strive to offer choice and a truly personal service. Even our Supermarket is owned by consumers rather than private shareholders!

So whether you are looking for the perfect present for your loved ones or stocking up your Christmas dinner, put the fun back into shopping, in a happy and relaxed atmosphere and support your local shops.

Our local retailers include:

Cakes & Roses a vintage florist with a difference! They offer gifts and cakes for all your celebrational needs including flowers, balloons and much more!

Pets Pantry and Hardware provide a range of products for all of your pet needs. They also contain a vast amount of homeware products ranging from cleaning items, decorating tools, home baking, the list is endless!

The Granary is a traditional bakery, which provides an array of bread, cakes and pastries using only the best quality ingredients. They also offer takeaway drinks, sandwiches and hot savouries daily. Celebration and wedding cakes are made to order and specific requirements can be discussed in store.

Acs Clothing Company is a family run business which offers childrenswear, menswear, work clothing, safety wear, women's fashion and school uniform. They provide quality clothing at affordable prices and are an official supplier of 'Our Lady of Hartley' school uniform. They are happy to order in goods for you if necessary and will even deliver to your door – they pride themselves on being a local service for local people.

The Village Pharmacy offers an invaluable dispensing service. In addition, it offers many other pharmacy services and a vast array of over the counter medicines. They also supply a range of baby products, make-up, everyday toiletries as well as perfumes and gifts. There is also a photographic processing service for all your digital prints that you need instantly.

Hartley Estates are your local independent property agents, they can offer an individually tailored and flexible approach to selling your home. If you are considering moving why not give them a call!

Ashtan Salons are a new business who offer the latest high power sunbeds as well as a full range of tanning products. They also provide spray tans and a range of beauty treatments including hair extensions and nail bar all at affordable prices.



Partners are a family run coffee and gift shop that provide good quality gifts for the home and that last minute present! Light lunches are a speciality, so please drop in.



shops and businesses

Vicky's Veg is new to NAG. They aim to provide fresh fruit and vegetables, locally sourced where possible. They provide fresh herbs and take orders for Glovers Farm, if something you require is not on display don't hesitate to ask.

Oxfam The Oxfam shop in NAG opened in February 1986 - since then the shop has gone from strength to strength. They rely heavily on the support of local people for donations/sales which go a long way to help deal with disasters/projects all around the globe. They offer second hand items, and also stock a variety of toiletries, cards and many other items. Oxfam's army of volunteers work tirelessly raising as much as possible for Oxfam and really appreciate their local support.

Martin's Newsagent and **Post Office** stock a vast array of newspapers and magazines, along with cards, stationery, drinks and a variety of confectionary. You can also buy your lottery tickets and phone top-ups as well as many other items. Having a local **Post Office** is a great coup for the area not just for all your postal needs, it offers many other services as well.

Ward & Partners offer a complete service including house sales, mortgages, conveyancing and surveys, designed to assist with the smooth running of your move. Thinking of moving? Pop in or give them a call.

Fuzion Whether you're looking for just a trim or a complete new look, pop along to your local hairdressers where they will be more than happy to help. They offer everything from cut & blow dries, to hair colouring and highlight treatments and other beauty services. Be sure to check out their special offers!

Gordy's is a pre-loved furniture store who offer second hand goods. Looking to buy or sell, then don't hesitate to drop in and see them.

TFS The Fun Shop offer a clean and safe play area with friendly professional staff who are all CRB checked. The play area includes play houses, a ball pit, various climbing frame play structures and toys. They also offer a café for snacks and refreshments. Pushchairs welcome.

Co-Operative local convenience, great value food and ethical trading are what the Co-operative Food is all about. They also offer big deals and coupons to help you save, make sure you sign up for their latest offers.

The Spice Village is your local Indian restaurant. Everything is freshly prepared and there are no additives such as colourings. The menu is varied and there are a number of items that will not be found in other Indian restaurants. They also offer a wide range of beverages. If you haven't given Spice Village a try yet perhaps this would be a good time to visit them!

Lyn's Breakfast Bar offer a variety of breakfasts, lunches, dinners and drinks. You can either dine in or take away. Feeling hungry, then take your appetite along!

STOP PRESS

Opening on 6th December in the Village Centre is 'The Clock Tower Restaurant' (located above the Barber's Shop).

Catering for all the family with a selection of dishes to suit all.

Opening times:

Thursday	5pm-10.30pm
Friday	5pm-10.30pm
Saturday	12pm-10.30pm
Sunday	12pm-7pm

Contact 'Vicky's Veg' for further information.

Support Local Shops

Use them or lose them!



Be sure to visit soon!



Dazzling Display Lights Up The Sky



A big thank you to the record crowd who braved the mud to come and enjoy the fireworks display on the meadow on November 5th.

Every year we try to raise the bar a little bit higher - this year the display had more bangs and flashes than ever before and also had Laura Brock, Maryanne Hall, Sam Roche, Charlotte Horne and Jodie Smith (Element Entertainment) with their human fire displays. **Next year we're aiming to make the display even more impressive.**

The annual event, which was attended by a record crowd of 2,500 people is one of NAG Social's main events and all money raised will be ploughed



back in to arranging Village Day and other events in the community throughout the year. We would like to thank all those who donated their time

to help out as we could not do it without them. If you can help the small team of volunteers in any way, please contact chrisj@nagsocial.co.uk.

NagSocial

Crafty Goings on in the Village Hall

NAG Village Hall hosts a range of activities from Exercise Classes to Line Dancing. Be sure to check out what's on by either telephoning the VA Office or visiting www.nagval.com

Silver Magpie Fairs have been running Craft and Gift Fairs in New Ash Green Village Hall and other locations since March 2012. Their ethos is that small businesses and individuals are worth supporting!

Why not come along and find something that the high street stores don't usually

sell? Most of the items you will find are unique and can be personalised to your own taste!

Entrance to all of the events is completely free. You will meet some great people and can even stay for a slice of cake and a cup of tea or coffee. There is a great range of products (including lots

which are handmade) at each of the events, with between 30-35 different stalls.

No matter what age you are there is something for everyone. Events for 2013 can be found on www.silvermagpiefairs.com We look forward to seeing you there!

Join the Conversation

Getting the most from New Ash Green Library

We want you to help us modernise library services - so tell us what you would like so that we deliver services that are right for you.

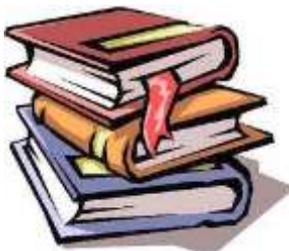
We want to work with you and your community to find new and efficient ways to run local library services - do you have any ideas or comments about library services in your area?

Check out our website for more information about Future Library Services www.kent.gov.uk/libraries

To join the conversation and tell us what you think write to:

The FLS Team, Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ or

phone us: **01622 696504**
or email us: fls@kent.gov.uk



LIGHTS OUT!



The VA maintains street and path lighting throughout NAG (with the exception of the Shopping Centre).

If a light is out, contact your Residents Society who will report it to the VA Office. You can of course report it yourself, please give exact details of the location (nearest house number), type of light (column, bollard, or wall light), and what appears to be wrong (light out, damaged, or timing issue). *Thank You!*

New Fire Station Gets the Go-ahead

Planning permission has been granted for a new fire station in Ash-cum-Ridley. Contractors will begin work in January and the new station will be ready by autumn 2013. Sean Bone-Knell of Kent Fire and Rescue Service said: "The new, one fire

engine, on call station will mean improved safety and job opportunities for local people. I would like to thank local residents for engaging with us and we will continue to work with you to deliver this long awaited new fire station for

the Ash-cum-Ridley area." A number of local men and women have already applied to be on call firefighters at the new station. For more details of the station and jobs visit www.kentfire-uk.org



Did You Know.....

- **Criminal damage** to property still continues to be an ongoing issue in NAG. Recently two dog bins were damaged, which had been caused by fireworks being set off inside them. The cost of replacing these is paid from residents contributions, therefore YOU pay. Should you see anything suspicious please contact the Police.
- **Christmas Office Hours** The Office will close on Thursday 20th December at 4pm and will re-open on Monday 7th January at 9am. This allows time for end of year business to be undertaken by staff.
- **Christmas Rubbish Collections** Over the seasonal period the refuse collections will be one day later than usual, therefore:-
 Wednesday 26th December will be **Thursday 27th December**. Thursday 27th December will be **Friday 28th December**. Wednesday 2nd January will be **Thursday 3rd January**. Thursday 3rd January will be **Friday 4th January**.
- **Xmas Tree Recycling** Throughout January the Council will collect your Christmas tree so it can be shredded into environmentally friendly compost. Your tree needs to be left out for the Garden Waste Collection crew and they will collect it during their usual fortnightly garden waste collection round in your neighbourhood. Dates in January are as follows: **3rd, 4th, 16th, 17th, 30th, 31st**.

- **Recycling** Brown garden waste bags can be purchased from the VA Office—£6.00 per dozen or £12.00 for 25. The *clear* recycling bags are still 50p a roll and black sacks are free! *Statistics!* 4000 brown garden sacks and 1150 rolls of recycling sacks have been sold this year to date!
- **Wassail** The Woodlands Group invite you to help them revive an old tradition. On Saturday 5th January 2013 join them for their sixth annual Wassail. Contact:- www.nagwoodlands.ik.com



If you are aware of any crimes please contact the Police.
 999—Emergency
 101—Non-urgent incidents

Feeling Artistic?

Art is meant to be enjoyed and we most definitely do, even if we are no Rembrandts! If you would like a relaxing few hours indulging yourself, join us on Wednesdays.

Our group is very friendly and sociable. Beginners and experienced artists are equally welcome.

We meet every Wednesday between 2.00 and 4.00 pm in the Meeting Room of the New Ash Green Village Association

Office, Centre Road, New Ash Green.

For more information please contact:

Margaret – 01732 822145
 or **John – 01474 873034**

**BETTER STILL –
 COME AND VISIT US ON
 WEDNESDAY
 AFTERNOONS**



NAG Art Club in action



PRIZE CROSSWORD

Following on from the success of our first prize crossword, Ted Davis has kindly compiled another one for us, and once again there are some NAG related clues! All completed Competition entries must be received by **Friday 25th January 2013**. The first correct entry drawn will win a Meal for Two including a bottle of Wine which has been kindly donated by **The Spice Village**. Please make sure that all completed entries are clearly legible, all entries should be placed in an envelope marked with 'Crossword 64' and returned to the VA Office before the closing date.

The winner will be notified shortly after the closing date of **25th January 2013**.

VA OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The VA Office is open to residents

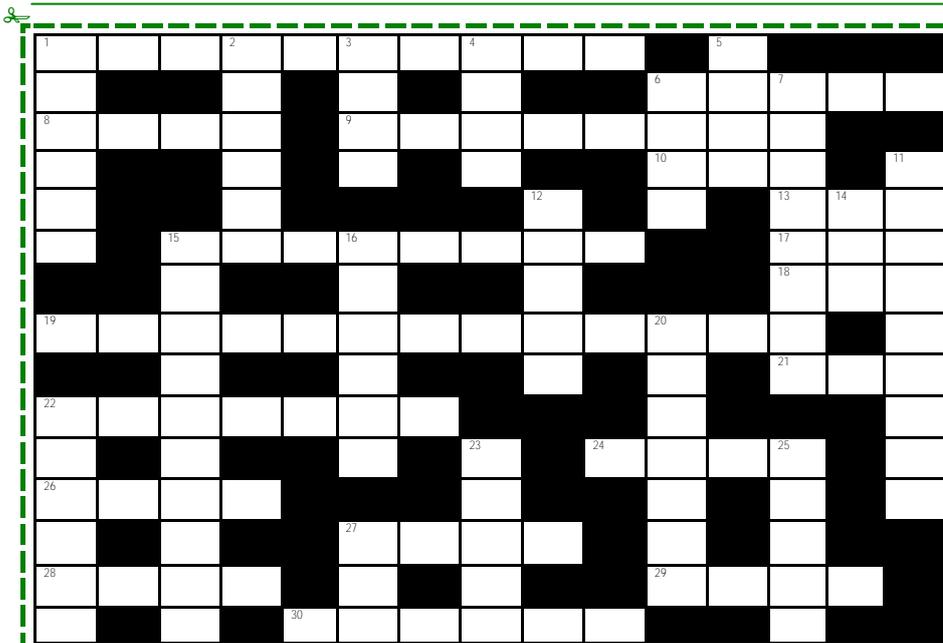
9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Thursdays —

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 **31st May 2013**.

'PIT YOUR WITS' WITH OUR PRIZE CROSSWORD



By Ted Davis

16. Ludwig's third (one letter more and it's rather rude!) (6)
20. A whale here? Difficult to believe! (7)
22. Cross out two notes on the dial (6)
23. Look in the rear, up high (5)
25. U, see **30A** (5)
27. Social gathering in the US, often seen here in the garden (3)

Crossword 63 Answers

Across 1. Anagram, 5. Tots, 10. Le, 11. Thrip, 12. Ewes, 14. Aloe, 15. Coop, 17. Cap, 18. WI, 19. Ebb, 20. Rue, 21. Seven, 23. At, 24. Sheen, 26. Dens, 28. eg, 29. Stet, 30. Gascon, 32. Writ, 33. Ales, 35. Lad, 36. ie, 37. Surgery, 39. Ups, 40. Net, 42. Gnash, 44. CO, 45. MA, 47. BA, 49. The Minnis, 52. ic, 54. Torid, 55. Ins, 56. Er, 57. Atop, 59. Coe, 60. Re, 61. Too, 62. Olivers.

Down 1. Alec, 2. New Ash Green, 3. Gas, 4. Again, 5. The Badger, 6. Or, 7. Tic, 8. Sports Club, 9. Capelands, 11. Toe, 13. Epee, 16. OU, 18. Went, 22. Vents, 23. Ans, 24. Sewing, 25. Stag, 27. Easy, 31. OAP, 34. Lemon, 38. Usher, 41. Tattoo, 43. Shop, 44. Cid, 45. Minor, 46. Asses, 47. Bier, 48. Acres, 50. Mill, 51. Nice, 53. Bat, 58. To.

Name:
 Address:
 Contact No.: Email:

Across

1. Cleft Acorn, and reassembled (10)
6. Dawdle on the footpath (5)
8. Purchase (4)
9. Quietly do damage to a city's environs—it may help you feel better (8)
10. Her subject was penned by one up—and a gaunt one at that (3)
13. Clean, top and tail, and get to the meadow (3)
15. Nib writes on first couple of envelopes for the address (8)
17. Ada leaves the fleet for the detachment (3)
18. Collar (3)
19. German denies he has a husky voice, but intends to, by the sound of it (4,5,4)
21. Often called this by boys in class, but seldom is (3)
22. Cane hen? Well, could you do better than that? (7)
24. Separation? That's cheesy! (4)
26. Person who sells gloves has one (4)

27. One can put it on 1 Down (4)
28. Face difficulties, so go to it for a pick-me-up (4)
29. and when it calls, go to it again (4)
30. U, see **25D** (6)

Down

1. Foot story (6)
2. At first sounded a good chap, but wrote in cold blood (6)
3. Withdraw two from two, shake up and manage (4)
4. Otherwise, a beginner starts to speak (4)
5. Roguish structure (4)
6. Short for sub-proboscis facial epidermis curlicue (4)
7. Jock confirms the plane has touched down (8)
11. Charles may have written great essays, but reads badly (9)
12. Strictly odd number (5)
14. Time to add the poetic muse (3)
15. Drink to the plot (10)

Local resident, Ted Davis, compiled our first prize crossword which was published in our last newsletter. The competition closed on 30th September 2012 and shortly after this date the winning entry was randomly chosen by a member of the public who had attended the VA Office. This was drawn in the presence of VA Staff and Ted Davis. We are now pleased to announce that the winner was Mrs J Bentley from Spring Cross.

On 11th October 2012, Mrs Bentley was presented with her prize of a 26" LCD Television by Paul Sketchley, Manager of the Co-Op, who had kindly agreed to donate this prize. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved and congratulations to our first crossword winner.



From left: Ted Davis, Jean Bentley, Paul Sketchley