



Winter
Newsletter



Issue 73
February 2018

What A Time It Was!

Remembering the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of 2017



2017 witnessed the milestone of fifty years of our amazing village. And what a year it was!

It all began back in Summer 2016 when the VA called a meeting of clubs, societies and organisations within the village to discuss what could be done to celebrate. I was invited along having generated a list of fifty event ideas of my own. Many further ideas were suggested at the meeting and several clubs offered to take on an event and help organise it.

A grant was obtained from the Big Lottery.

However the prospect of organising so many celebrations was daunting and

a '50th Anniversary Steering Committee' was created to oversee the planning and to support the individual event organisers. Led by Ken Smith and myself, Shaun Fishenden, we supported the clubs and individuals who had very kindly offered to organise an event wherever we could.

The celebrations started in June with the Enchanted Orchards Day, held in our wonderful community orchard, an often under-used asset of our village. Then we moved onto the much loved Village Day, which this year was bigger and better than before as it was launching the 50th Celebrations!

Your Thoughts on the Celebrations...

The 50th Committee would like to get residents feedback on the celebrations. We have launched an online survey that will take around 5 minutes to complete.

To complete it please go to:

<https://qmul.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/nag50feedback>

Remembering the 2017

After the launch, we saw the celebrations come thick and fast. The next big event was the 'Fifty Shades of Green' revue put on by local drama group Act One. And I must say so myself it was pretty amazing! I had the pleasure of watching it twice - it was a great way to laugh at the quirks of the village.

Then as the warmer weather came we saw the focus move to events for the kids such as the Tennis Taster Days held on the 22 and 23 July. It was a great way to try out the sport and hopefully the club picked up some new members.



A Tea Party was then held by the scouts for the Senior Citizens of the village. It was a great afternoon and the big band was enjoyed by many.

The return of the Inter-Neighbourhood Quiz was won by Capelands, with Manor Forstal as runner up by just one point!

The Shape of New Ash Green Exhibition held in late July, organised by local artist Sam Hickman and photographer Sass Harding was also a very inspiring event. It was nice to see that Sam and Sass had invited the primary school children to contribute artwork to form part of their exhibition - a very nice touch.

The 5th August saw theatre company Shooting Star Entertainments visit the village to perform a custom performance of Robin Hood. 'Nursey' the dame was a particular highlight with the children.



Celebrations...

Entering into September we had the Fun and Food for the Fiftieth day, organised by the Town Team and held in the Shopping Centre.

The 1967 Film Night was held a couple of weekends later, kids were entertained by the adventures of Mowgli in the Jungle Book, whilst adults spent the evening thrilled with the escapades of Sean Connery in James Bond 'You Only Live Twice'.

One of our concluding events was the audio-visual presentation by Patrick Ellard entitled 'A Time It Was And What A Time It Was'. It covered the concept of New Ash Green in the 60s through to the dark days of SPAN's collapse. This was arguably one of the best attended events with a re-run of the presentation having to be held to allow those who missed it the first time to attend. It was truly a remarkable presentation that captured New Ash Green's place in the history books of the 1960s.

Then we moved to our penultimate event, the 50th Anniversary Dance held at the Pavilion on the 30th September. Organised by Muriel (the VA treasurer) who very bravely took on the



mammoth task of organising the event. It provided a fitting finale to the 50th Anniversary and many villagers attended the event and were entertained by Firebird, a local band joined by singer Shane Hampshair. The anniversary dance was a great way to finish off the three months worth of celebrations.

Outside of the event schedule, we had the special 50th Anniversary edition of the ARGUS. This was released on the 21st September 2017, the date when it was exactly

50 years since the launch of New Ash Green.



Want to see more pictures of the 50th Anniversary? Please go to: www.nagval.com/nag-50/gallery

Written by **Shaun Fishenden**
Shaun served as Co-Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee

New Kitchen for Village Hall

The Village Association was delighted to be presented with a brand new kitchen for New Ash Green Village Hall as part of the Anniversary celebrations.

Bovis Homes and **Moores** teamed up to provide a new kitchen at absolutely no cost.



The existing kitchen had been in place since the village hall first opened back on 19 September 1975 and was no longer suitable for the users of the hall.

The new kitchen which is almost twice the size of the existing one, contains a brand new oven and grill, flooring, sink and utility area. A serving trolley and tea urn has also been purchased by the VA for use by users of the hall.

A handover of the new kitchen was held

on 20 June, attended by representatives from the VA and Bovis Homes. The kitchen was formally presented by Earl Sibley (Bovis Finance Director).

The VA would like to thank both Bovis Homes and Moores for their generosity in providing the new kitchen as it enables us to better serve the needs of the community and hall users.

Did You Know?

Bovis built the hall and donated it to the village all the way back in 1975!



In October 2017, the **Women's Institute** gifted this knitted mural to the VA which can now be seen proudly on display in the Village Hall.

And a Mural too!

At the beginning of 2017, a conversation was held with a member of the local Women's Institute about knitting something to commemorate the 50th Anniversary.

The excellent members of the WI went away and the VA office had a complete surprise when presented with the final masterpiece. Their contribution went above and beyond everything we could have imagined and we hope 'Muriel' will remain on display for many years to come as a legacy of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

A formal handover of the mural now lovingly nicknamed 'Muriel' took place in October. A plaque was affixed to 'Muriel' as a surprise to the WI members to express the VA's thanks and gratitude for their contribution to the 50th Anniversary.

It is important that we recognise those who contributed to producing this magnificent mural, they are:

- **Judith Bird**
- **Becky Cecconi**
- **Jill Clucas**
- **Loulette McDowall**
- **Flora MacLeod**
- **Isabel MacLeod**
- **Sheila Parkin**

Those who have viewed 'Muriel' already have been amazed by it's creativity. Many photographs have been taken of the Mural but unfortunately are somewhat spoiled by the reflection of the glass on its protective casing.

However the VA wishes to thank Paul King, the husband of a WI Member who, using sophisticated camera equipment managed to produce the fantastic picture of 'Muriel' displayed on the page opposite.

With the stunning picture, the WI is now able to submit this wonderful piece of art to their local newsletter and the national paper for the organisation to celebrate their mural and perhaps inspire other WI's to create similar work for their local communities!

Hiring the Village Hall

The Village Hall has the following features:

Kitchen Facilities

Stage Area

Tables and Chairs

Disabled Access & Facilities

Free Parking

The rates of hire for the Hall are available to view on the VA Website at www.nagval.com/venue-hire

If you wish to hire the Hall, please enquire at the VA Office.



Stay n Play Sessions

Mini Monkey Mayhem run 'Stay n Play' sessions every Wednesday from 10am until 1pm in the Village Hall for 0 to 5 year olds.

Only £2 per child to attend

Tea, coffee and cake is available for parents!

For more details of the 'Stay n Play' sessions check out their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/minimonkeymayhempartyandplayhire



Chairman's Report: 2016-2017



Keith Wale - VA Chairman
Keith has served as Chairman since 2015.

As I write, the 50th Anniversary celebrations are drawing to a close. In my previous report I said I hoped to report on a bumper year and I can confirm this is the case and we have indeed celebrated a vintage year in our history.

50th Anniversary

We started with Village Day, before moving onto the Cobbs Bike Show and the events put on by our various Sports Clubs. An inter-neighbourhood quiz saw Capelands crowned the winners. A revue by Act One and a Summer Panto pleased both young and old. SPAN Historian; Patrick Ellard packed out the Village Hall for two showings of his audio-visual history of New Ash Green during the 1960s and 70s. A SPAN original residents meal followed the first showing on the 23 September which was a great success with much reminiscing involved.

The final event arranged by the 50th Committee was the Anniversary Dance held at the Pavilion on 30 September. It proved to be an excellent event held in a marquee that held the

guests, band and singers: A fitting end to our celebrations!

Hardland

Work has continued to maintain our ageing infrastructure and keeping things safe. Vandalism in the play areas has proved to be a particular problem and comments on social media about the type of play equipment in place currently has been noted.

Greenland

Another season of mowing within the village is drawing to a close albeit slowly as the mowing season gets longer each year!

The team lost a long-serving staff member this year meaning they are a man down but are coping well with the workload. New mowers have been purchased to replace ageing equipment enabling grassed areas to continue to be maintained.

The team lead by Paul Yeoman are to be commended in their endeavours to maintaining a high standard in their work. This is proven by visitors to the village who comment on how beautiful it is.

Village Hall

The plan to extend the kitchen was successfully carried out this year. We owe a debt of gratitude to Bovis who supplied and fitted the kitchen. Also to Cllr David Brazier who secured funding from KCC that was used to complete internal fitting. I am delighted to report we did this work at no cost to the village.

Sports Pavilion

The Pavilion continues to make good progress on a sounder financial footing this year and I am delighted to report the hard work and time expended is showing positive results in terms of increased footfall, increased bookings for events and an improvement in the financial health. The team led by Sarah provide a welcoming environment whether you are there for a meeting, a celebration or just a quiet pint.

Policing

Policing continues to be a concern and this year we have seen an increase in the number of incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Our compliment of PCSO's has increased to 2 but the area they cover has also increased so the net effect to the Village is no change.

Administration

The VA office is the engine room of the village and without the efforts of Pat and Jo it simply could not function. Pat's skills and knowledge is the stuff of legend. Jo has steadily made progress on dealing with outstanding contributions this year.

I close by thanking my fellow directors for their help and support over the year. It is rare to single out particular people but I would like to add a special thanks to Ken Smith for his work on the 50th Anniversary and to Muriel Galinis for her unstinting work as the VA Treasurer and her help with the 50th Celebrations for without her we simply could not have done what we have.

2018: Plans for The Year

2018 will be much quieter than 2017 as there will be no 50th Celebrations but work continues at the VA in maintaining the high standards within the village.

Millfield Lane

Following the VA's first attempt at securing planning consent for new parking bays along Millfield Lane being refused, a consultation with planning officers at Sevenoaks District Council has taken place and a revised scheme will be submitted shortly.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The VA will continue to work in partnership with other agencies to find solutions to the current issues relating to anti-social behaviour in the village.

Greenland Ploughs Ahead

The Greenland team will continue to carry out planned works during 2018 that are

identified during an annual tree survey carried out by an external Arboricultural (Tree) Consultant.

50th Anniversary Video

The 50th Anniversary Video is still going ahead. The majority of the celebrations were filmed which is why there has been a delay in the release but editing has begun. The video will be released in Spring 2018. Please keep an eye out for the official premiere date where the video will be played for the first time in the Village Hall.

We will be displaying a trailer for the video on the New Ash Green & Hartley Friends Facebook group very soon. Keep your eyes peeled!

Sorry For The Silence

We are sorry that we did not publish any VA Newsletters during 2017. With the 50th Celebrations taking place we had hoped to put out a

celebratory issue but we just got so busy with the events it didn't happen. However 2018 will see a return to the twice yearly newsletter to keep residents up to date.

As you can see we have updated the design to make sure it's engaging and modern. We hope you like it!

And whilst we didn't publish last year, the VA was very pleased to see the ARGUS make a special return in 2017. And what a wonderful 50th Anniversary issue it was.

AGM Season

As we approach the AGM season where the majority of residents societies host their AGM's the VA encourages residents to consider giving up a few hours a week of their spare time to consider joining the society committees. It's an excellent way to get to know your neighbours.

Council of Management (COM)

It was agreed at the 47th AGM held on 8 November 2017 that COM would consist of:

- **Keith Wale** - VA Chairman (Consultant Member)
- **Muriel Galinis** - VA Treasurer (Consultant Member)
- **Brian Hardcastle** - Amenity Committee (Over Minnis)
- **Colin Garratt** - Greenland (Consultant Member)
- **Terry Vivian** - Hardland (Consultant Member)
- **Cameron Clark** - Communications (Chapel Wood)
- **Bruce Clarke** (Consultant Member)
- **Stephanie Clarke** (Consultant Member)
- **Bob Ashford** (Lambardes)



**Date for the Diary:
Village Day 2018 will be
on Saturday 7 July!**

Fireworks Night 2017

Celebrating the 50th with a Bang!

On Sunday 5 November 2017 NAG Social put on their annual Fireworks Night. This marked the grand finale of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. As well as the fireworks display the bonfire successfully returned again.



The fireworks were timed to music from all eras from the 1960s to the modern day.



Over the last few years, the fireworks display has progressively improved and become bigger and spectacular every year. NAG Social should be proud of themselves for being able to continually build on each fireworks night so they get better every year.

The VA Greenland team supported the social committee by providing the means for the excellent bonfire.

The event was well attended by villagers and visitors. The night went out without a hitch and was very well organised by the social committee. Well done to the team!



Lights Out

Reporting issues with village lighting

As we are in the darker months, it is important lights around the village are working properly. Therefore when there is a problem with them we strive to fix them quickly!

If you find a light isn't working, you must inform the **VA Office** as soon as possible; this can be done either by visiting the office, email or phone. We have also launched a Report a Light page on our website at www.nagval.com/reportalight

You do not need to report the light to your Residents Society, lighting is the responsibility of the VA and so needs to be reported direct to us.

The information that we need when you report a light is:

- **Location**
e.g. Garage of No.36 Millfield or pathway by No. 20 Chapel Wood
- **The Problem**
Not working, timing issue or vandalised
- **Type of Light**
There are three main types of light around the village: **bollard**, **column** and **bulkhead**.

Please Note - There are also Mushroom Lights on Punch Croft and Globe Lights around the Shopping Centre/Village Hall.

Type of Light Guide:



Column



Bollard



Bulkhead

Cop Spot

In recent months the village has seen a significant increase in the amount of anti-social behaviour and crime taking place. The VA recognises that there is a lack of policing within the village and that many of you have not seen either a Police Officer or PCSO in months!

However, we have concerns that incidents are not getting reported therefore the police presence is unlikely to increase. We urge all residents who are affected by a crime to please report every incident to the Police via 101. Whilst it is accepted that the reporting procedure can be difficult and time consuming, increased policing will never be considered until crime statistics justify an increased presence.



Call The Police, Not Social Media

Whilst the VA do not agree with this and believe that actually prevention is better than cure it is the only hope we have of seeing an increase in policing.

Currently we are finding that many incidents are being posted about on social media however they are not being reported to the Police. Whilst social media is a good way of raising people's awareness about these incidents it is not helping us achieve greater levels of policing.

So to report a crime that has taken place you can either;

Telephone: 101

Or use Kent Police's new online reporting tool:

www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting

This online reporting tool is relatively new and we believe there have been teething issues with it but these should soon be resolved.

Money Matters



Muriel Galinis - VA Treasurer
Muriel has served as Treasurer since 2015

Muriel has lived in the village for 40 years and raised her two children here.

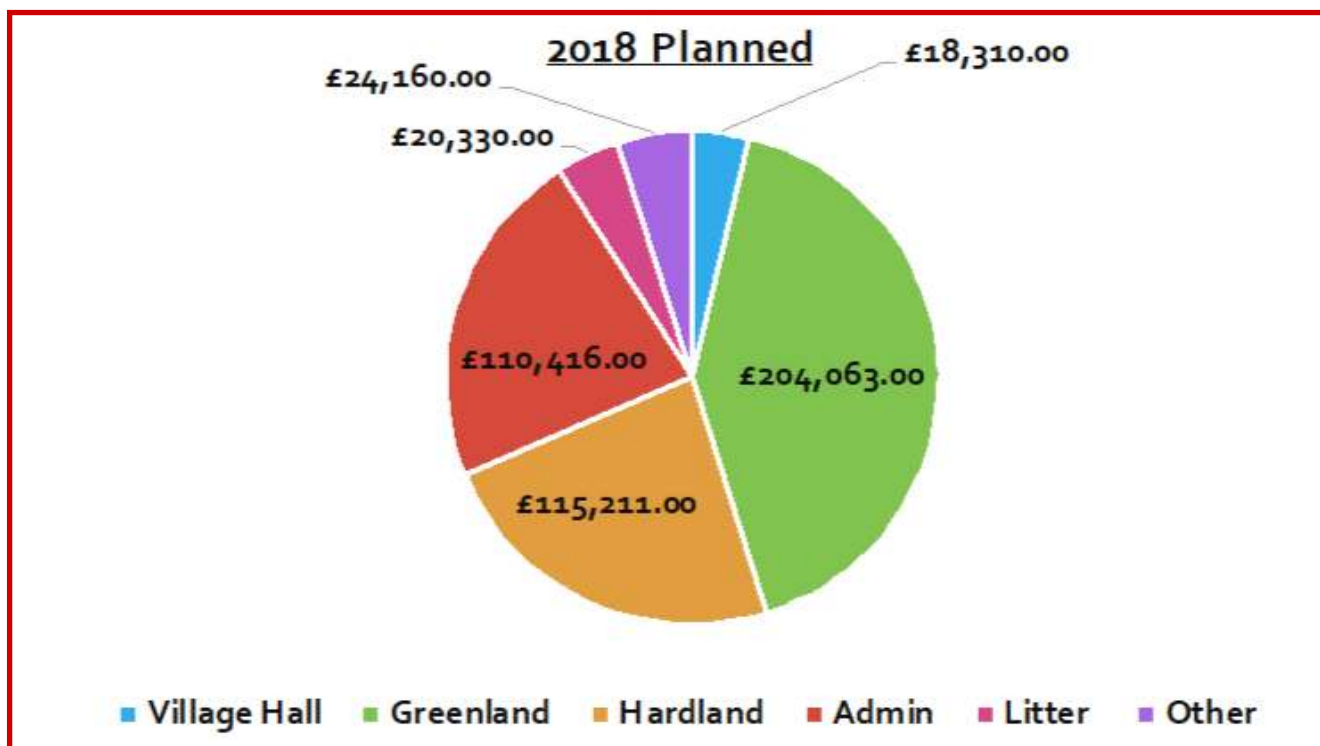
As Treasurer she is responsible for managing the VA budget and allocating funds to each operation of the association such as Hardlands and Greenlands

The Village Association held its 47th Annual General Meeting on the 8th November 2017 at which the Statutory Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016 were tabled and approved.

The spending committees prepared budgets for expenditure in 2018 and after full discussion; a proposal was put before the AGM to increase the contribution rate by 3.30%. The annual contribution rate per 100 square feet internal floor space will therefore increase from £18.20 to £18.80. This equates to an annual increase of 60p per annum per 100sq.ft.

Contribution arrears at the end of 2017 amounted to **£99,943.25**. This is the highest figure of outstanding monies the Village Association has ever experienced. What this means is the maintenance programme in the village will become severely delayed. We kindly request that you pay your contributions promptly or perhaps you may wish to consider paying your fees by monthly standing order. If you are interested in this please contact our finance officer either via telephone at **01474 872691** or email finance@nagval.com.

The pie chart below shows how the contributions for 2018 will be spent. The VA's improvement programme will continue into this year with works including phase 2 of the three year column light repaint, the crossing barriers being repaired and repainted. In addition the play area by Lambardes will receive a much needed upgrade with new metal fencing and a repaint. The other play areas will also be repaired and re-painted. There will also be a continuation of the upgrade to lights throughout the village.



In my last report, I referred to the plans to provide additional parking bays on Millfield Lane. Our original plans were rejected on the grounds that the proposal: *"Would fail to conserve local character, it would result in a loss of local open space, remove trees which form a key part of local character and access paths required"*

Have Your Say:

Do you want the landscaping to stay or do you want more parking? Your support will help. The schemes are on display in the VA Meeting Room and new plans have been drawn up taking into account the comments received and will be submitted in due course. The funds will be carried forward from last year should approval be received.



Staff Vacancies

Bar Staff

New Ash Green Sports Pavilion is currently looking for bar staff to work evenings and weekends.

Previous experience would be beneficial. Applicants must be honest, hardworking and trustworthy.

For more information call the Pavilion Manager on **01474 874660** or email manager@nagpavilion.co.uk

Landscape Maintenance Operative

We are looking for an experienced person to join our existing team.

If you have 5 years experience including: landscaping, hedge cutting, brush cutters and the use of tractors, preferably with Chainsaw Courses C530 C531 C538 C539 plus Pesticide PA1 and PA6A qualifications. You will also need a full driving licence.

Starting salary of £17,000 per annum subject to qualifications and completion of a satisfactory probation period. For more information visit our website www.nagval.com or call **01474 872691**.

Part Time Administrative Assistant

To assist with the smooth and efficient running of the Village Association.

You will need to be fully proficient in Microsoft Office and have the ability to work independently. Must be able to use own initiative and have good people skills. Must be willing to cover all other duties in the office as and when necessary.

Flexible hours up to 16 hours per week. Salary is dependent on experience and completion of a satisfactory probation period.

For more information please visit our web site www.nagval.com or call **01474 872691** for a job description and person specification.

Who's Who?

The Organisations Within the Village

We understand it can get confusing as to who is responsible for what within the village as there is no comparable structure in other areas. Below we explain three key organisations; the **Village Association**, **Residents Societies** and **NAG Social**.

New Ash Green Village Association Limited:

The Village Association (VA) owns all amenity land within the village ie. all land *except* houses, rear gardens and garages but including front garden areas, garage courts and parking areas.

The Association's other responsibilities are:

- Maintaining land between residential neighbourhoods including the Sports Field, the Minnis, the woodlands and play areas.
- Street and Path lighting around the Village
- All footpaths not within the responsibility of a neighbourhood
- Managing the Village Hall

The VA is **NOT** responsible for the Shopping Centre.

Contributions known as 'VA Fees' are paid by each householder to fund the operations.

The amount payable by householders depends on property size and are set each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The VA is managed by the Council of Management (COM), these are the elected board of directors accountable to VA members. COM is responsible for ensuring all legal duties (Companies Act, Employment Legislation and Health & Safety) and contractual obligations (Covenants to maintain village grounds) are fulfilled. The Council consists of nine members made up from members of Residents Society committees and from Consultant Members.

Residents Societies:

The village of New Ash Green is made up of groups of houses known as 'neighbourhoods'. Each neighbourhood is different, according to its position, layout and style. There are 24 neighbourhoods in total, each with its own Residents Society.

Residents Societies are covenanted to maintain all land within their boundary, as a result their responsibilities are:

- Greenland (including Landscaping and Trees)
- Footpaths within the Neighbourhood
- Garage Forecourts
- Parking Areas
- External Repaints (including Garages) on a four year cycle

The income a Residents Society receives is from 'subscriptions' charged to all properties within its neighbourhood, fixed annually at the Society's AGM, which is usually calculated on the size of the property. Each Society is run by a committee and budgets are agreed each year in respect of the subscriptions paid to the Society by residents to fund this operation.

New Ash Green Social Committee:

A volunteer run group who organise the annual Village Day, Fireworks Night and Christmas Craft afternoon. NAG Social does not have any responsibility for the village and is financially independent from the VA and Residents Societies. For more information on the work of NAG Social please go to www.nagsocial.co.uk

Neighbourhood Natter

Talk to your Residents Society

If you wish to contact your Resident Society for any matter related to their responsibilities, then you can use the contact details listed below to get in touch with them.

All Residents Society committees are always on the look out for new and enthusiastic members to join the committee.

Ayelands

Chair: Ken Smith
ayelandsrs@gmail.com

Bazes Shaw

Chair: Lynda Gregory
bsrs@nagval.com

Bowes Wood

Chair: Jane Stevens
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Caling Croft

Chair: Debbie Sandeford
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Capelands

Chair: Ian Geater
crsresidents0191@gmail.com

Chapel Wood

Chair: Cameron Clark
cameron@cclark.me.uk

Colt Stead

Chair: Viv Henman
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Farm Holt

Chair: John Sharpe
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Foxbury

Chair: Linda Maidment
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Knights Croft

Chair: Bob Stinton
help@kcrs.co.uk

Lambardes

Chair: Bob Ashford
secretary@lambardes.co.uk

Manor Forstal

Chair: Mo Wright
mo.wright@hotmail.co.uk

The Mead

Chair: Alan James
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Millfield

Chair: Alan Johnson
millfieldres@hotmail.com

Olivers Mill

Chair: Ian Mann
enquiry@oliversmill.org.uk

Over Minnis

Chair: Brian Hardcastle
ovrs@nagval.com

Penenden

Chair: Angela Harris
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Punch Croft

Chair: Paul Watson
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Redhill Wood

Chair: Jonathan Fletcher
*Residents have been provided
with an email address*

Seven Acres

Chair: Mick Thorley
rs@sevenacres.co.uk

Spring Cross

Chair: Mike Richards
mikerichards@
springcross.co.uk

Westfield

Chair: Lawrie Townson
lawrencetownson@
btinternet.com

Lance Croft

Chair: Irene Perkins
lcrs@nagval.com

The Mote

Chair: Linda Sutherland
linda.sutherland@talktalk.net

The Sports Pavilion

A Great Community Facility!

New Ash Green Sports

Pavilion is a public bar and sports venue that has catered for families since the 1980s. Not many know but it is actually owned by residents as the Sports Pavilion is a subsidiary of New Ash Green Village Association.

Set over two floors, it has three bars with commanding views across the large sports field. The upstairs bar and Green Room both have Sky Sports channels. In the summer months the outdoor seating area is opened up allowing you to relax outside.

Alongside the public bar there are two function rooms; the Ash Room and the Green Room available for hire. Catering can be done in-house for events in the 5 Star hygiene rated kitchen.

There is an outdoor gym suitable for all ages that was opened in 2015 funded by the Big Lottery, SDC and KCC. Next door is a children's play area for the younger ones.

Nestled in 15 acres of open green fields, our unrivalled rural surroundings and function facilities provide the perfect setting for a variety of family celebrations, music events and sports.

In 2017, the Pavilion invested in refurbishing the Ladies Toilets to bring them up to a clean, high standard. Further refurbishment will take place in 2018 to the public areas.



- FUNCTION ROOMS ● BARS ● SKY TV ● RUGBY
- FOOTBALL ● PETANQUE ● TENNIS

Family Friendly Function Rooms:

Ash Room and Green Room

Children's Parties

Meeting & Training Facilities

Music Events

Party Planning

Function Decorating Service

Catering

Outdoor Gym and Family Play Area



Pavilion Bar Opening Hours

Monday:	5:00pm to 11:00pm
Tuesday:	5:00pm to 11:30pm
Wednesday:	5:00pm to 11:30pm
Thursday:	5:00pm to 11:30pm
Friday:	4:00pm to Midnight
Saturday:	Noon to Midnight
Sunday:	Noon to 11:00pm

The function rooms can be made available outside of these opening hours by request

Contacting the Pavilion

You can telephone **01474 874660** and ask to speak to Sarah [Manager] or Denise [Assistant Manager]
Or you can email them at manager@nagpavilion.co.uk

Get Arty in 2018

Join New Ash Green's Arts Community



Monthly Art Sessions:

Youth Centre
North Square
New Ash Green
DA3 8JY

First Sunday of every month
2:00pm to 4:30pm

Art Talks:

VA Meeting Room
Centre Road
New Ash Green
DA3 8HH

7:30pm to 9:00pm

New Ash Green Arts Community invites villagers to their monthly art sessions. They are held at the Youth and Community Centre on the first Sunday of every month. The sessions take place from 2pm to 4:30pm. Visitors are welcome or a £4 membership is available.

On Sunday 4th March 2018 the Arts Community will be hosting "Make It Clay" using clay as an art material. A pottery workshop. Those inspired by this are also welcome to join an abstraction workshop on Sunday 24th February.

The popular evening art talks held at the Village Association meeting room on Centre Road resume in 2018. They run from 7:30pm to 9pm. To attend a single talk it is £10 or for three talks its £18. Both of these prices are for non-members.

For more information you can email:

nagartscomm@gmail.com

Or you can check out their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/NAGartscommunity

Alternatively you can collect a programme of talks from Pets Pantry located in the Shopping Centre.

Ash & Ridley Women's Institute

The Women's Institute also welcomes new members, they hold their meetings on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at **Milestone Academy** in the Teaching and Learning Centre, Ash Road, New Ash Green DA3 8JZ.

You can contact the WI either by telephone at **01474 873640** or via email at ashandridleywi@gmail.com for further details.

Stay in Touch

Keep up to date with the VA

Design Guidance Workshops/Council of Management (COM) Drop In Sessions

Design Guidance Workshops are where members of the Amenity Committee are available to meet residents to provide informal guidance on any proposed works to your property (e.g. extension, conservatory, doors and windows). It is often helpful to discuss your plans with them first before finalising your designs. These sessions **cannot** grant approval but can help in guiding away from proposals that are unlikely to be approved.

COM Drop In Sessions These sessions provide an opportunity for residents to meet members of Council of Management and raise any issues you may have relating to either New Ash Green or the work of the Association.

Whilst COM members might not be able to answer all matters directly they will be able to guide you to the relevant person or agency.

The dates for the 2018 Design Guidance workshops and COM drop-ins are:

- **Saturday 3 March**
- **Saturday 7 April**
- **Saturday 5 May**
- **Saturday 2 June**
- **Saturday 7 July**
- **Saturday 4 August**
- **Saturday 1 September**
- **Saturday 6 October**
- **Saturday 3 November**
- **Saturday 1 December**

Both the Design Guidance Workshops & COM Drop In Sessions are held on the first Saturday of every month and run from **10:30am until Noon**. They are held in the **VA Meeting Room, Centre Road**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Website & Social Media

This year the VA relaunched its website to make it more accessible and to contain more information relevant to residents. To visit our website please go to www.nagval.com

We also have a Facebook page **New Ash Green VA** where we post latest news, important information and upcoming events. Please give it a like!



Neighbourhoods

By Sam Hickman
www.paperscissorsrock.net

The **VA Newsletter** is published and distributed by New Ash Green Village Association to inform local residents about the work of the Association and provide relevant information about the village.

Produced and Edited By: Shaun Fishenden

Assisted By: Pat Kirtley, Jo Colston and Hilary Fishenden

VA Office Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 9am - 4pm (Closed to Residents on Friday)

Contact Details: *Email:* admin@nagval.com *Telephone:* 01474 872691 *Facebook:* New Ash Green VA

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