



Parish News

Issue Two
2007

Synopsis of the Chairman's Annual Report

Throughout the year the Council has continued to make improvements in the facilities and services we provide on behalf of the community. In doing so, however and ever mindful of the burden of increasing Council Tax, we have maintained a careful control on our spending, containing annual increases in the Parish precept, over the past 8 years to less than 1.5% per annum. In the current year the Parish rate equates to £1.03 per week for each household; this is a reduction from last year.

At the Ash Centre various improvements have been made over the year. During the summer we installed a new gas powered air conditioning system, throughout the whole of the building. In the main hall a new acoustic ceiling has been fitted and the "vandalised" tile cladding to the outside of the building has been replaced by smart new rendering.

Other improvements across the Parish include the installation of a "Teen Shelter" in the Parson's nose area at the back of Heathcote field. We have continued to increase our provision of hanging baskets throughout the village and as a result, for the 5th year running, we won the Best Kept Parish category in the "Guilford in Bloom" competition. The flowerbeds at Coronation Gardens were also reinstated to commemorate Her Majesty The Queen's 80th Birthday. My thanks to all our ground staff for all the work they do in keeping the Parish looking good.

As a Parish Council we have responsibility for 600 residential streetlights. Many of these lights were installed over 40 years ago. We have now had to embark on a rolling programme of replacing these old concrete lampposts; this year about 50 have been replaced. In addition to this we have also responded to resident's requests and have installed 10 new lamp posts at various locations. At the cemetery, we have commenced another rolling programme, this time it is the resurfacing of the footpaths, in order to comply with health and safety regulations.

For me the highlights of the year are the Summer Fun Day and the Christmas Fantasia. Although the weather was not kind to us for the Fun Day, it was still an enormous success and many local charities and voluntary organisations benefited financially by taking part. The Christmas Fantasia was again very special. The Christmas tree and lights were fantastic and the whole event is a credit to everyone who took part.

The Parish Planning Committee continues to meet fortnightly to look at and make comment, to the local Planning Authority, on the various planning applications within the Parish. The committee also considers tree preservation orders, traffic and highway matters as well as consultation documents. Perhaps the most interesting aspect this year in local planning, is the Thames Heath Basin Special Protection Areas (THBSPA). This has severely restricted the number of new residential developments, which have gained planning permission, as Ash falls within this designated heath land area.

Turning to finance, we obtain our income from several sources. We levy fees for the facilities we provide such as the Ash Centre. We seek grants where these are available and we receive concurrent function grants from Guildford Borough Council on certain capital expenditure. We also receive a compensatory grant again from Guildford Borough Council, with respect to our provision of public toilets. We receive interest on our earmarked and general reserves, which are invested in high interest accounts, and we are always looking to get the best return on all our investments. We are also a burial authority so we receive income from the provision of plots in our cemetery and subsequent internments. The shortfall between this income and our planned spending for the forthcoming year is levied as the Parish Rate.

Beyond our core responsibilities your Council continues to invest in opportunities that we believe will be of benefit to the wider community. Where possible we continue to work in partnership with other agencies, including Surrey County Council, Guildford Borough Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and the Surrey Police. We are also aiming to achieve Quality Status for the Council in the next financial year.

To conclude, the municipal year 2006-2007 has been a very demanding one for this Council, however the Parish Council still represents a powerful democratic voice of the local community and will continue to do so. Our 12 elected members, the majority of which are in full time employment, work very hard for the people of Ash and are extremely conscientious devoting much of their free time to Council duties, without any financial reward.



Nigel Manning

*Councillor Nigel Manning
Chairman Ash Parish Council*

SNAKY LANE WILDLIFE AREA

Located in the very north-west corner of Guildford Borough, the Snaky Lane wildlife area is bordered on two sides by Stratford Road and Meadow Close. It is managed by the Snaky Lane Community Wildlife Group. The Group was formed in 1993 when enthusiastic local residents working with the owners, Guildford Borough Council, began to develop the area for people and wildlife. With the help of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, the group now meet on the first Sunday of each month to carrying out conservation and management work on the site.



The new footpath in the Wildlife Area



Members of the Snaky Lane Community Wildlife Group at the newly installed bench overlooking the pond

Snaky Lane is one of the few areas of unimproved grassland in the area comprising two distinct areas of mixed grassland. Each one is managed under different mowing regimes in order to maintain the rich floral mix. As the grass re-growth is managed it is hoped that the wildflower population will increase, with a corresponding increase in insect populations. The site has open access and contains acidic grassland, newly planted trees, hedges and a pond.

HISTORY

Snaky Lane was once the property of the Abbot of Chertsey Abbey when he was the Lord of the Manor of Ash. He was given the land in 1323 by a William Souter.

By 1871 the area had been incorporated into Lynchford Castle Farm, which covered a total of 70 acres and belonged to a James Nash. The road through Mr Nash's farm was named as Stratford Road in a list prepared for Ash Parish Council in 1907, although it was known locally as Snaky Lane, we don't know why.

IMPROVED ACCESS FOR SNAKY LANE



The new footpath allowing easy access to the pond

A grant of £7,873 made to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust (BVCT) for a new footpath and other access improvements has made it easier for residents in Ash Vale to enjoy their local wildlife. The grant awarded last year by Hanson Environment Fund and supported by a 10% contribution from the local company SC Johnson, has paid for the installation of a new footpath. This covers the whole of the site, including the wildlife pond where a new countryside bench has been placed.

Visitors, especially those with limited mobility can now move around the area more easily. They can also sit by the pond and enjoy the stunning views.

Dave Pilkington chairman of the BVCT said: *“The Snaky Lane Community Wildlife Group are doing a terrific job managing this site. We are delighted that our successful grant bid has facilitated such important site improvements. With the new surfaced path and bench, more people will be able to get around the site and see for themselves what a lovely local wildlife area it is. Our thanks go to both the Hanson Environment Fund and S.C. Johnson for supporting our bid and giving us the money.”*

As access across the site has improved the Snaky Lane Community Wildlife Group are appealing to local people and businesses for donations to help to put in signs and information boards at the site entrances. Mary Langsford the group's Treasurer said: *“Since we started to publicise the site and the work we've been doing, we've had several comments from people who don't know where Snaky Lane is. Our first priority is an information board for the site entrance off Stratford Road.”*

NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

Ash Flood Forum

The forum took place in the Ash Centre on Friday, 19th January at 8.00pm. Our local MP, Michael Gove chaired the meeting at which representatives from Thames Water, Network Rail, Guildford Borough Council and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) were on hand to answer questions from the concerned residents. At this meeting which was very well attended, the representatives from the various agencies were made aware of the serious concerns that the local residents have.

Parish Elections

The elections will take place on Thursday, 3rd May. All 12 positions on the Parish Council are open for election together with the 7 elected representatives for Ash to Guildford Borough Council.

There are 3 Wards in Ash and each Ward has 4 Parish Councillors. The Wards are Ash South, Ash Wharf and Ash Vale. To see a map of the wards, look at "Parish Wards" under "Parish Maps" on the Ash Parish Council's Website.

Guildford in Bloom 2007

Enter Guildford in Bloom *Greening the Borough* competition and make a real contribution to enhancing your local environment. You could win a prize for your efforts.

Closing date for all entries: Friday 22 June 2007.



Ash Parish Website Events Diary

Ash Events Calendar						
May 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

[Post an Event](#)

14 May 2007 - Ash Parish Council AGM

Annual General Meeting held at Ash Centre at 6:30pm. Elections to the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council will take place plus the composition of the various committees will be decided. Members of the public are welcome. For more information see [Meetings Calendar](#).

An Event Diary has now been implemented on the parish website. You can now have your important events posted on the website such as AGMs, tournaments, competitions etc.

The Event Diary Calendar is on the homepage and you can see the event for a day by clicking on that day and what's on that day will be displayed below the calendar. To the left you can see the event for 14th May.

All events and public holidays are marked with a salmon pink background on the calendar.

To get an event posted, click on **Post an Event** link just below the calendar and you will then go to a form to fill out which will then be emailed back to us or alternatively you can just email us the details of your event at: office@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk

If you would like to place an article about a community event in a future issue of this newsletter, or if you have any suggestions for improving the newsletter or website, please contact :
The parish office telephone: 01252 328287.

Ash Parish Councillors

Cllr Mrs Jennifer Cole	(01252) 664675	(Ash South Ward)
Cllr William Cole	(01252) 664675	(Ash South Ward)
Cllr Mrs Rosemary Hall	(01252) 321427	(Ash South Ward)
Cllr Mrs Kathy Simmons	(01252) 330063	(Ash South Ward)
Cllr Mrs Ann Graham	(01252) 329670	(Ash Wharf Ward)
Cllr Graham Hawes	(01252) 317763	(Ash Wharf Ward)
Cllr Mrs Jayne Hewlett	(01252) 660913	(Ash Wharf Ward)
Cllr Mrs Pat Scott	(01252) 324941	(Ash Wharf Ward)
Cllr Nigel Manning	(01252) 665999	(Ash Vale Ward)
Cllr Mrs Marsha Moseley	(01252) 665999	(Ash Vale Ward)
Cllr Eric Worrall	(01483) 568080	(Ash Vale Ward)
Cllr Mrs Mandy Worrall	(01483) 568080	(Ash Vale Ward)



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**ASH RECREATION GROUND
ASH HILL ROAD, ASH**



ASH FUN DAY

Saturday 21 July 2007

1pm to 5pm



VEGETABLE, FLOWER AND FRUIT SHOW

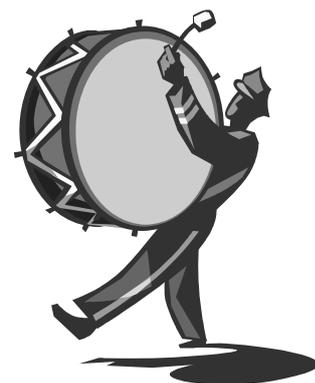
FLOWER ARRANGING,

CRAFT AND BAKING COMPETITION

STALLS AND GAMES

CHILDREN'S RIDES

ARENA DISPLAYS



The Fun Day gives an opportunity for all local groups and organisations to raise funds by running stalls and/or games. To book your stall please contact the Ash Centre on 01252 328287.

Throughout the afternoon a variety of displays will take place in the central arena including the Sandhurst and District Corps of Drums, dance presentations by both local children and local groups, displays by the Mayflower Morris Dancers and a mummings play and a musical item will be performed by the Playmakers.

Refreshments will be available, from ice cream and burgers to tea and cake, and of course the beer tent.

The following competitions will take place in the Ash Centre:

Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show, Crafts, Baking, Flower Arranging and a Children's Painting Competition. Please call 01252 328287 for further details of all competitions and categories.