



Parish News

Issue Three
2005

Dear Parishioner

Welcome to this edition of Parish News I hope you are enjoying the summer.

It is with much sadness that I have to report that there has been a large increase in vandalism throughout the Parish. The individuals involved in this mindless behaviour are not only costing the local taxpayer substantial sums of money; they also have no regard for the safety and concerns of their neighbours.

For example the new lighting scheme in the Shawfield Road Pedestrian Tunnel was severely vandalised in May, which has cost over £3,500 to repair. This act was clearly planned, because of the nature of the damage that was done.

The Parish Council condemns all acts of vandalism and will do all that it can to help the Police, catch, and bring to justice anyone involved in this particular form of anti-social behaviour. A reward of up to £500 will be paid to any person giving information which results in the successful prosecution of the person or persons responsible for any damage caused to Council property. For more details, please contact the Clerk of the Council at the Parish Offices.

*Cllr Nigel Manning
Chairman Ash Parish Council*

ASH IN BLOOM

Over the past few years the number of hanging baskets displayed in the parish has increased and this year sees the inclusion of Ash Green in this very popular scheme.

With all the new improvements to the now sponsored roundabouts together with the various flower gardens throughout the parish, Ash is set to be a village in bloom throughout the summer months.

Our thanks go to the Council's ground staff without whose good ideas and hard work the excellent standard achieved could not be maintained.

SPONSORSHIP FOR HANGING BASKETS

The Council would like to say a big thank you to the following businesses that have sponsored hanging baskets through the parish this year:

- Advanced Preparations, Station Approach, Ash Vale
- Ash Citizens Advice Bureau, Ash Centre, Ash
- Dover Garage, Ash Hill Road, Ash
- Spice of India, Wharf Road, Ash Vale
- Surrey Hearing Services, Shawfield Road, Ash
- The Swan, Heathvale Bridge Road, Ash Vale
- Totesport, Wharf Road, Ash Vale
- Vale Furnishers, Wharf Road, Ash Vale
- Village Pets, Wharf Road, Ash Vale
- Wheelers Solicitors, Wharf Road, Ash Vale
- The Standard of England, Ash Hill Road, Ash Vale



VICTORIA HALL CLOCK

On July 25th 1900, three years after the Victoria Hall was built, a turret made of old English oak, with a weather vane and a three faced clock, with tubular bells for striking the hours and chiming the quarters was presented by Dr. Chester to Victoria Hall in memory of his mother, Charlotte Ellen Chester.

Sometime later it was found that the striking power of the clock did not comply with the terms agreed, "To be heard a mile away". To avoid litigation the supplier agreed to take back the clock.

The clock was replaced by a London turret clock firm called "Benetfinks, who agreed to comply with the Squire's wishes, providing a deeper well was dug for the weights to descend into. (The well is about fifty feet deep)

Excavating to reach the required depth was met, but a layer of thin quicksand substrata caused many months of special work. George Kemp, a local contractor, had difficulty in coping with this as continuous pumping was needed to keep the water in subjection.

The clock mechanism is operated by three cables with thirty nine weights, which makes a total of 113 stone (717.5 kilos). In 1937 the weights became detached and fell into the water. Although the clock kept good time it did not chime again until 1965 when an underwater diving club rescued the weights from the bottom of the well.

The clock's tubular bells are unique, and one of very few clocks in the country with them. The clock is now in the care of the Ash Parish Council who have arranged for an automatic winding system to be installed. This system will in no way detract or affect the value of the clock but will assist in maintaining it.

The value of historic clock movements in our conservation conscious time cannot be underestimated and the old weighted winding mechanism will be kept so that the history associated with the old village clock is not lost.

Historical facts supplied by Brian Perry, A&D Local History Society.



CORONATION GARDENS CAR PARK

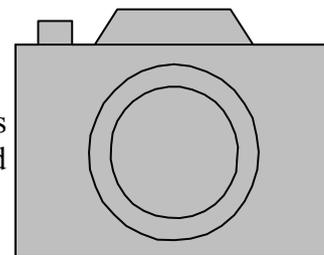
One of many improvements throughout the village this year has been the resurfacing of the car park at Coronation Gardens, off Ash Hill Road. The work in partnership with Guildford Borough Council was completed during May 2005.

This area now provides a good surfaced car park that will help alleviate the problems of parking within the village.



FORTY THREE CAMERA CLUB

The 43 Camera Club was started over 40 years ago by a group of workers from the 43 Command Workshop in Aldershot. They all enjoyed photography as a hobby and got together to form a club.



The club uses both film and digital cameras and regularly take part in various competitions with other local clubs. They compete for various trophies including the Molesworth Cup, the Rainbow Cup, and the Spectrum Trophy.

The club now meets every Thursday evening from September to May, at the St. John Ambulance building in Heath Vale Bridge Road (Near the Swan Public House). The meetings are 7.45 p.m. for an 8 o'clock start. Speakers have already been booked from the autumn onwards and a slide show is planned featuring travel locations such as China, Central America, Mexico and Panama.

The club is currently looking for new members, so if you are interested in photography why not come along? Membership is open to everyone, although minors (under 16s) must be accompanied by a relative. A single annual subscription is £14 and a joint subscription is £20. There is no obligation to join at the first meeting, just come along and see if you like it.

If you would like more information please contact Mr Eric Marsh on 01252 323253.



LAKESIDE PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL

Did you know

The engineering company Geoffrey Osborne, has been awarded the Best Small - Scale Innovation Award by the Railway Industry in their Innovation Awards 2005 for the construction of the Lakeside Road Pedestrian Tunnel.

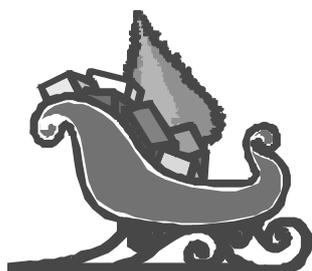
The scheme demonstrated an innovative approach to the construction of a subway through a railway embankment that was adjacent to an existing road and rail bridge with major construction that caused minimal disruption to railway operations and infrastructure.

The scheme was also commended because it considered all aspects and produced an engineering solution that fully dealt with all the risks and was completed successfully to time specification and budget.

CHRISTMAS FANTASIA

This year's Christmas celebrations including the Christmas tree illumination ceremony will be held on Saturday 3 December 2005, there will also be a Christmas Fair at the Ash Centre.

**MORE INFORMATION
TO FOLLOW. WATCH
THIS SPACE!!!**



Schools in Ash Parish

Walsh C of E Infant School

Opened in 1915 our school over the years has seen many changes. In 2002 major building, renovation and decorating work began with further plans for an information communication technology suite and changes to the front of the school.



We are a Church of England school, attached to St. Peter's Church and plan to join the international Eco School organization. We address the spiritual and physical needs of our children to equip them for the highly technical and complex 21st century and to relate well to others. We have twice received an award from the High Sheriff of Surrey for our work in these areas.

The 180 infants at Walsh learn basic skills in literacy, mathematics, history, geography, science, design and technology, information communication technology, physical education, religious education, art, personal social health education and music - somehow we fit it in! Most children love school, their work and play, friends and teachers, and achieve good results. The government urges us to raise academic standards, we also aim to raise self-esteem and motivation to help children succeed and be able to contribute positively to society.

A child who is 4 between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2005 is able to start school in September 2005. Walsh Memorial Infant is a school where children of all abilities are valued and taught well. If you think this may be the place for your child please come and see the school and learn more about the opportunities we are able to offer. Please phone 01252 321426 for further information.

CORONATION GARDENS RECYCLING

Ash residents are such keen recyclers that Guildford Borough Council has recently installed an extra plastic recycling bank at Coronation Gardens, to meet the additional demand. The one plastic container used to fill so quickly that there was an overflow of plastic bags, which made the area look untidy. Now there are two banks, people can recycle more and keep the area tidy.



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 or comments for improving the newsletter or website, please contact :
The parish office telephone: 01252 328287.



Ash Parish Councillors

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|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Cllr John G Ades | (01252) 323909 | <i>(Ash South Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Mrs Jennifer Cole | (01252) 664675 | <i>(Ash South Ward)</i> |
| Cllr William Cole | (01252) 664675 | <i>(Ash South Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Mrs Rosemary Hall | (01252) 321427 | <i>(Ash South Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Mrs Ann Graham | (01252) 329670 | <i>(Ash Wharf Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Graham Hawes | (01252) 317763 | <i>(Ash Wharf Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Mrs Jayne Hewlett | (01252) 660913 | <i>(Ash Wharf Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Nigel Manning | (01252) 665999 | <i>(Ash Vale Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Mrs Marsha Moseley | (01252) 665999 | <i>(Ash Vale Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Mrs Pat Scott | (01252) 324941 | <i>(Ash Wharf Ward)</i> |
| Cllr Eric Worrall | (01483) 568080 | <i>(Ash Vale Ward)</i> |
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