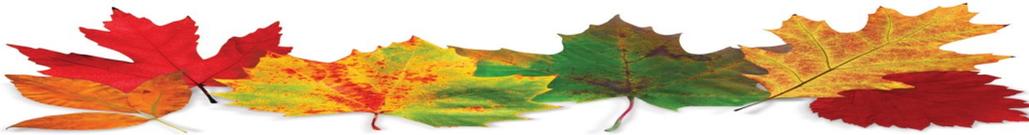




Bulletin

*The Parish Newsletter for everyone
in Ash, Hodsoll St, New Ash Green
and Ridley.*



**WINTER
2017**



PARISH PRECEPT

The Parish Council precept for the 2017/2018 Financial Year has been set at £98,090, being a 5% increase. £9,968 will come from General Reserves to balance the budget. While the percentage is 5%, the actual monetary increase equates to an annual increase of £1.88 on a Band D property.

If you require further information or would like to make an appointment to visit the Parish Office and inspect the accounts, please contact the Clerk.

With continued cut backs from the senior councils, parish councils have had to take on some services in order that they continue. For example, Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council both contributed to the provision of two senior and one junior youth clubs a week. Both councils have withdrawn this support and the Parish Council now fully funds one senior youth club a week and contributes towards the junior club and provides two family fun days in the summer.

The very popular Thursday Lunch Provision for residents over 60 is predominately supported by a grant from Kent County Council Adult Services; however the grant has been reduced and in the near future, will be withdrawn completely, and will rely entirely on funding from the Parish Council.

In an effort to alleviate the pressure of burials in Ash Burial Ground, the Parish Council is in the process of introducing a Memorial Garden in the current burial ground for the interment of ashes and an earmarked reserve has been created for this with an annual contribution.

Alison de Jager
Parish Clerk
Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council
01474 702760

Date for the Diary: The annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th. May at 8.00pm in Ash Village Hall. This is a chance for you to come and see what has gone on in the parish in then preceding 12 months and meet some of the councillors and also to see the newly refurbished Village Hall.

COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT

The Community Safety Unit (CSU) consists of Council Staff, Police, Community Wardens, Housing Associations and other partner agencies.

Partners meet on a daily basis to discuss Community Safety Concerns and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls that have come in from residents via agencies including the Police. Since January 2016 the CSU have dealt with over 600 calls.

Kelly Webb, Community Safety Manager, SDC said that the CSU is a great way for partners to address current concerns and have a speedy and effective response to residents of which all are updated.

We have great initiatives for residents in rural and urban areas to keep them safe and their belongings safe. The CSU has timer switches, shed alarms, personal alarms and card protectors to name but a few which are free to residents.

To find out more e-mail community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk or phone 01732 227000.

The CSU deals with all aspects of ASB and community safety. If you have a problem that you would like the CSU to get involved with then please contact them.

If life is in danger or a crime is in progress, always call 999.

For non - urgent police matter call 101.

Jackie West
KCC Community Warden
07811 271259



IT'S TIME TO GROW

There are many good reasons for having an allotment: the obvious one is to enjoy fruit and vegetables that come straight from the ground unpolluted by weed killers, insect killers or whatever the supermarket puts on them to make them last so unnaturally long. And there is nothing quite like eating produce that you have grown yourself.

But allotmenting is more than that; it has been shown to have so many health benefits that some GPs now prescribe it and a hospital in Gloucestershire has set up its own allotment scheme to help its patients and people referred to it after heart attacks and angina to recover.

Allotments are not without their difficulties, of course, and unseasonal weather, hungry slugs and predatory pigeons all need to be contended with, but as a hobby it offers fresh air, exercise, the companionship of like-minded people, relaxation...and all that home-grown food.

New Ash Green has its own allotment site. It's behind the Black Lion on Ash Road, Hartley, and is run by volunteers on land leased from the VA. It has 80 plots and its gardeners range in age from 3 to 86. Courtesy of the landlord, parking is available, as is his pub for a convivial pint and his coffee shop for a possibly healthier option (if you can resist the cakes).

There is mains water on the allotment site to see us through the long, hot summer days and various plot sizes are available. The full-size ones suit those with plenty of time and energy; half plots will provide most of a family's fruit and veg needs for the year and obviously require much less work. There are also some small plots available for those whose time or energy is limited or who simply want to try running an allotment to see if it's for them.

And the cost? You could have a full plot for just £24 for the whole year, a half-plot for £13 and a starter plot for just £8 (plus a one-off charge of £2.50 in all cases for a key to the allotment site).

The growing season will soon be with us and there are not many plots available, so if you want to try allotmenting contact Mike Pinney soon.

Tel: 01474 874251 or email: mikepin@outlook.com.



APPLY TODAY

all sorts of people can be
on-call firefighters

visit www.kent.fire-uk.org/oncall

Jack, 28
Office administrator
Favourite food: Curry

Chailee, 31
Quantity surveyor
Special skill: Watercolours

Yusuf, 47
Teacher
Favourite animal: Cat

Elena, 23
Fashion designer
Supports: West Ham Utd



201610-057

All sorts of people can be on-call firefighters... and we want to hear from you!

On-call firefighters are paid to be available for an agreed number of hours.

During that time you can go about your normal life at home or work, but if you get a call to say we need you, you must be able to drop what you are doing and get to the station within five minutes.

The hours we offer will be based on what the local station needs to deal with the risk in your area.

To be an on-call firefighter, you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be physically fit
- live or work within five minutes of one of the recruiting stations and be able to offer the hours we need.

• **Check our website for details including recruitment criteria – www.kent.fire-uk.org/oncall**

NEW ASH GREEN ARTS COMMUNITY

Come and join us at our lively interactive meetings. We welcome everyone with an interest in the visual arts. We have a programme of talks, demonstrations and practical sessions. We meet on the first Sunday of every month 2-4pm.

New venue Youth Centre New Ash Green DA3 8JY. Entry £4 visitors £2 members (membership £12 pa) For further info email nagartscomm@gmail.com or call 01474 874273



Do you or someone you know need extra support during a power cut?

Although power cuts don't happen very often when they do they can be worrying

UK Power Networks is the electricity network and it provides a 'Priority Services Register' for people who might need extra help in a power cut. Older people, families with very young children, and people with specific medical conditions are among the many people who are eligible to register for free support. You can find more details and register by visiting ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport or calling 0800 169 9970.



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6 week programme review
Advice on nutrition
Classes ***

NO CONTRACT

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to get started

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY
* Excluding Yoga and Pilates



OFFER

OFFER

Bring a 'Buddy'

Pay for 3 months membership and your 'Buddy' receives 1 months membership free

Membership Includes:

**Induction
Personalised Programme
6 week programme review
Advice on nutrition
Free Classes ***

Call our friendly staff

on 01474 707164

to get started

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY
* Excluding Yoga and Pilates

TRIM TRAIL FOR NORTHFIELD?



Would you like to see a Trim Trail on Northfield for all residents to use?

Please send your comments to info@acrpc.org.uk or call the Clerk on 01474 702760