

ASH BURIAL GROUND

Opening Of The Memorial Garden

25 September 2020 at 12 noon

Cllr M Brown - Chairman

When it became obvious that despite our best efforts, we were unable to provide a traditional burial ground, we determined to provide a memorial garden to bury ashes and provide a memorial. I hope we have provided a place of memories; a place to think and reflect and be consoled.

Mrs Alison Harding – St Peter & St Paul, Ash

This burial ground – the wider space – exists for the benefit of our whole community, for people of all faiths and of none. For many, regardless of any religious beliefs, it is important to have a named space – a grave or now a memorial plaque – where they can remember those whom they love but see no more. There is a very real sense in which these places become sacred sites to the people who still hold dear in their hearts those who have died.

As a Christian, I believe that everyone who has ever lived is a child of God, and so I ask him for his blessing on this special place and on the people who will come here.

O faithful God of change and time, we are gathered here in thanksgiving for the formal opening of this memorial garden. Come, Lord, and be our guest so peace may be upon this place. Bless, we pray, this wall and this special area of ground. We thank you for all those who have worked together to bring it into being, and we ask your blessing on all those who will come here over the years, that they will always find it to be a place of stillness, of peace and comfort, and eventually of healing. Amen.



This poem is one I often read at the graveside or when ashes have been interred. Its title is "Tomb", but the sentiment applies equally to a grave or to a place where ashes are buried.

*The place of remembering:
Where, as the work of grief is done,
Memory recovers its perspective.
Letting the dead one go,
With aching sense of loss,
Opens the way to finding again
A rounded person, gifts and faults,
Delights and irritations;
Makes it possible to share again
The jokes, the intimate glance,
Keep company unseen.*

"Tomb" from "Watching the Kingfisher" by Ann Lewin; Inspire, 2004

Remembrance Service

Unfortunately due to the ongoing pandemic, we were unable to have a normal Remembrance Service however a smaller, socially distanced service was held. The Chairman of the Parish Council; Mike Brown was in attendance; along with Parish Clerk; Alison and a number of local dignitaries. Rev'd Helen Reeves said a few words and the wreaths were laid at the War Memorial.



NEW ASH GREEN SOUTH EAST WARD: Councillors Mike Brown (Chairman), Roxana Brammer (Vice Chair), Jill Clucas, Pam Connell, Mark Manley, Laura Manston
NEW ASH GREEN NORTH WEST WARD: Councillors Carol Clark, Sarah Hobbs, Steven Glover, Vusi Ngwenya, Paul Nightingale, Shaun Fishenden
ASH WARD: Councillors Jeremy Scott, Melanie Sapiets
HODSOLL STREET & RIDLEY WARD: Councillors Frank Cottey, Margaret Howie

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.hugofox.com/community/ash-cum-ridley-parish-council-12628
 PARISH CLERK: 01474 702760 EMAIL: info@acrpc.org.uk

Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council

SPRING
2021

Serving the local communities of Ash, Hodsoll Street, New Ash Green & Ridley

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

FROM THE JUBILEE MEDICAL GROUP:

Following extensive trials, safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19 are now available. Getting vaccinated will be our best defence against this pandemic and will mean you are protecting yourself so you can be there for your family and friends. The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19 infection, and will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill.

Jubilee Medical Group and Meopham Medical Centre are part of a Primary Care Network (PCN) grouping called LMN Primary Care Network. We have worked very successfully together over the past year on a variety of projects and employed new staff including Clinical Pharmacists and

First Contact Physiotherapists to benefit our patients across both sites.

For the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination, each PCN grouping has one designated site. Our designated site is Meopham Medical Centre.

The government has set a strict priority list. People over 80 along with care home residents and staff have been the top priority, and the majority of our patients in this group have now been vaccinated with the remainder being covered in the next week. So far we have vaccinated 2,600 patients. If you are housebound and have not been contacted yet to arrange your vaccine, do not worry – we will contact you as soon as possible.

We will continue to work together as a PCN to deliver the next waves of the vaccination programme. As soon as vaccines are made available to us patients will be invited based on the priority list.

We do not have any control over when or how many vaccines are delivered to us so please do not telephone to ask when you will be invited. As you will appreciate, our phone lines are very busy at the moment and you may be stopping a patient with an urgent medical problem getting through. You will be contacted by text, telephone or letter and may be vaccinated by a member of staff from across the PCN, helping us to vaccinate as many patients as quickly as possible.

ADVICE, MEDIATION & USEFUL NUMBERS

Kent County Council.....	03000 418181
Sevenoaks District Council	01732 227000
Kent Police - Emergency Calls	999
Kent Police - Non Emergency Calls.....	101
Anti Social Behaviour Officer	01732 227000
Community Warden.....	07811 271259
Doctors Surgery.....	01474 873828
Village Pharmacy.....	01474 873811
Citizens Advice	03003 309001
Arriva Northfleet	01474 535138
West Kent Mediation	01732 469696
Samaritans	116 123 (free)
Childline	0800 1111
Community Cupboard.....	07526 823122
Papyrus Suicide Prevention Under 35s	0800 0684141 (free)
Young Minds	www.youngminds.org.uk
KCC website for COVID-19 advice & testing information	www.kent.gov.uk

Refuse Sacks

A roll of black refuse sacks and a roll of clear recycling sacks are delivered to every household every 20 weeks. Should you require additional sacks, these can be purchased from the Parish Office on the Milestone School site.

Garden Waste Sacks: £15.00 for a pack of 25.
 Recycle Sacks: £0.50 per roll.

We are only able to accept cash or cheque.

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Johnson's Farmhouse



Johnson's Farmhouse is made up of two parts, the earliest part dating from the 17th century and the later part from the 19th century. They were listed Grade II in 1982.

The eastern part is 17th century and is timber-framed and faced with weatherboarding in front and with flints and tarred weatherboarding at the back. There is a gable above the roofline and the roof is tiled. There are two casement windows.

The western part is 19th century in date. It has two storeys faced with red brick in the front and tile hung at the back, with a tiled roof. There are two sash windows with glazing bars intact. The front has "R.F. 1821" on it. As yet we have been unable to find out who RF was.

The Fulljames Survey of Ash carried out in 1792 gives the owner of Johnson's Farm as Mr Argles, with Mrs Porter the occupier. The Porter family were a well known family in Ash and had a presence in Ash for at least 70 years. In the 1839 Tithe Schedule it shows the owners as William Batcholler and John Blissett but the occupier as Edward Porter. He is farming 19 acres and paying a tithe of £5.

Looking at the 1841 census we can find out some information about the Porter family. Edward Porter was 49 and a wheelwright. He was married to Frances who was 47. They had 7 children, 6 girls and 1 boy, aged 14 called Edward after his father.

In the 1851 census we find Edward is now 60. He has become a master wheelwright and a farmer of 20 acres. He was employing 2 men, one in the trade and the other on the farm. He and all his children were born in Ash but his wife came from Meopham.

By the 1861 census Edward Porter had died and his wife Francis, now 65, was "carrying on the business of a wheelwright". Two daughters and a granddaughter were with her on census night. They also had a "servant", Henry Oliver a widower of 55 who carried on the wheelwright business.

In 1871 it shows the above Henry Oliver now aged 65 and still a wheelwright living with his wife Ann. It is probable that they lived in one half of Johnson's Farm to carry on the business.

In 1871 we meet Richard Johnson and I like to think it was he who gave the name to the farm. In 1871 he was a widower aged 54 and shown as a farmer of 18 acres. His unmarried daughter Sarah Johnson lived with him and on census night Richard's sister-in-law and a visitor were present.

1881 sees Richard and Sarah his daughter still resident at Johnson's farm. However by 1888 both were dead and buried in Ash churchyard, Richard on 22nd May aged 71 and Sarah on 8th July aged 33.

After this the third family step on to the scene, the Haygreen family, from Suffolk. By 1891 James Haygreen aged 48 with his wife Maria aged 46 had taken over the farm. They were still there in 1901 but by 1911 James was a widower aged 68, living with a housekeeper and her 9 year old son. The historical record has James in Ash at least until 1915. It is pleasing to see that the barn conversion in the curtilage of the farm has been named after the Haygreen family.

In the 1930s the Tomlin family lived at Johnson's Farm. In 1980 the Tomlin sisters moved to Manor Forstal. New Ash Green.

Casual Vacancies

The Parish Council has recently Co-opted three members to the Council.

Cllr Shaun Fishenden was Co-opted in September 2020, representing the New Ash Green North West Ward and will sit on the Finance, Sports Centre and Youth Committees.

Cllr Laura Manston was Co-opted in October 2020, representing the New Ash Green South East Ward and will sit on the Youth Committee.

Cllr Melanie Sapiets was Co-opted in January 2021, representing the Ash Ward and will sit on the Planning Committee and Youth Committee.

Footpath Mapping Error

In Autumn 2020 the Parish Council was given notice of an application by the developers of Manor House site to correct mistake in the public footpaths maps held recorded by KCC that had erroneously listed a public footpath as existing within the boundaries of the Manor House gardens.

Thanks to historical and archival research by Cllr Pam Connell, the Parish Council was able to demonstrate that such a footpath had never existed and therefore we were able to suggest that it instead be corrected to show the footpath as existing on the Knights Croft side of the fence, along the spine road.

This application was purely a technicality to correct a mapping issue and will not result in the creation of a new footpath.



Club for the Over 60s

The Thursday Lunch Club are currently still offering a take-away meal service for many of older members of our community.

They still have capacity for more people to use this take-away meal service. The cost of a take-away meal is £5.50.

Ash Green Sports Centre

Although Ash Green Sports Centre and Gym is closed in line with the Government Lockdown regulations, we will be ready to welcome members back as soon as permitted.

If you are looking for a clean and friendly local gym – look no further. With our ramped-up cleaning procedures, including hourly touch point cleaning and weekly anti-viral fogging, we are here to look after you. Conveniently situated on the Milestone School site. Visit our website, www.ashgreensportscentre.co.uk or our facebook page for further information.



Electric Vehicle Charging Points for New Ash Green

In August 2020 Kent County Council with Kent Association of Local Councils advised that funding had been secured for new electric vehicle charging points and invited some rural parishes to take part in the project to increase the number of publicly accessible Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points to help more people make the switch to these cleaner and quieter vehicles. The scheme is part of KCC's plan for our county to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

A joint submission with the New Ash Green Village Association was successful. County Councillor David Brazier, the Village Association and Parish Council made a financial contribution. The chargers will be installed, owned and operated by KCC for public use.

KCC will arrange for maintenance, servicing and deal with any issues that may arise. If the units are vandalized or accidentally damaged, then KCC will arrange for the repair. A maintenance and repair fee will be taken from the revenue generated by selling electricity before profit share is split out.