

## Village Days & Summer Fetes...

New Ash Green Village Day returned after a two year absence due to Covid. The event was held on Saturday 18 June and saw a huge turnout for wonderful day.

There was a large range of stalls, and activities to participate in. Also a classic car display plus vehicles and officers from the local Emergency Services .

The Parish Council's Sports Centre team were also present, running a fun fitness competition in order to be in with the chance to win a free membership.

A lot of effort was clearly put into organising the day by the team at New Ash Green Social Committee. Here's to Village Day 2023!



Hodsoll Street held its Fete on the Green on 19 June. The event held on the Village Green was attended by a large number of residents in Hodsoll Street. Thankfully the weather stayed dry and there was even a little ray of sunshine!

There was an array of fun and games to take part in including Whack a Mole, stocks, coconut shy and a bouncy castle.

Again, a massive thanks must go to the organisers of this event who put a lot of time and effort into the day.



## The Green Man

After the Parish Council listed The Green Man as an Asset of Community Value following its tragic fire. We received notification from the landowner; the Stonegate Group of their intention to dispose of the site. This triggered a six-month moratorium period in which the 'Green Man Recovery Group' attempted to reach out to the landowner to discuss their intention for the site and/or consider forming their own bid.

Sadly despite the best efforts of the Recovery Group and with the support of the local press, they were still unable to get Stonegate Group to engage with them.

The six-month period expired and within hours, the Stonegate Group confirmed they planned to put the site on the open market.

The Recovery Group continues to try and engage with the landowner.

## Youth Club

The Parish Council commissioned Youth Club, that will be run by KCC is intended to relaunch in Autumn 2022.

At the moment we are currently arranging a venue. We will keep residents informed with more progress in due course.

**NEW ASH GREEN SOUTH EAST WARD:** Councillors Mike Brown (Chairman), Roxana Brammer (Vice Chair), Jill Clucas, Pam Connell, Mark Manley, Isabel MacLeod

**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

# Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council

SUMMER  
2022

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

## Summer Playscheme Launched!

We are very proud to announce the Summer Sport Scheme collaboration supported by the following businesses: Prestige Dance, GKR Karate, Kick Kent, Sylvera Dance, CycleMe Tots, Mini Athletics, Beaming Starts Gymnastics, Callums' Coaching, AJ's Football, Full Stretch Fitness and staff at the Ash Green Sports Centre.

All this has been made possible from our generous sponsors: Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council, New Ash Green Village Association, The Pavilion, The Milestone Academy and the Co-Op

To ensure you get a place email us on [info@ashgreensportscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@ashgreensportscentre.co.uk) with the following details:

- Your name
- Name of child & age
- Your contact number & post code
- In order of priority, the sessions you would like your child (and you, for family sessions) to attend.

We will respond no later than 18th July 2022 once we have tried our best to accommodate everyone. After this date any requests that come through will be for what sessions have availability.

## Annual Council Meeting - Update

Ash-cum-Ridley held its Annual Council Meeting on 19 May 2022.

At this meeting, the annual election for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman roles of the Council took place.

The Council agreed to re-elect, Cllr Mike Brown as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2022-23.

The Council agreed to re-elect Cllr Roxana Brammer as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2022-23.

## KALC Community Award 2022

The Parish Council was delighted to present Pat Kirtley with the KALC Community Award at our May 2022 meeting.

This was in recognition of Pat's years of service at New Ash Green Village Association, serving the community for over forty years!

Joining the VA Office team initially as holiday cover back in 1979 under the formidable Village Administrator; Melda White. She remained with the organisation, firstly as Committee Clerk, before in 1999 becoming the Village Administrator after the tragic passing of Eileen Taylor; Melda's initial successor.

Pat's knowledge of the village and its history is unrivalled. Her knowledge continues to be a source of advice to the Parish Council even now.

Pat retired in April 2020 but has continued to have a keen interest in the village community.

Throughout her working career, the Parish Council recognises that Pat always went above and beyond her job as she passionately cared about the village.

Pat continues to be a much respected and familiar face within our community. Thank you Pat for all your years of service!





## Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee

On 31st May it was a pleasure to host an event with the support of volunteers in the New Ash Green Village Hall for those who attend our Community Hubs.

The Tuesday morning groups were set up to support the community to ensure people can meet to ease loneliness and isolation. The Hubs are free due to the generosity of the New Ash Green Village Association and the local Coop store.

The planning of the event took a few months and was worth every

moment. The weekly volunteers all divided up roles for the day's event. Catering, hall decorating, refreshments and meeting and greeting were all busily undertaken.

There were 90 plus attendees who sat down to an afternoon tea and entertainment.

It was a magical event that encompassed much emotion captured in the faces of so many in attendance. The feedback was amazing.

This was certainly a moment of community teamwork that reached so many people who benefitted from such an uplifting event.

This event captured for me the immense pleasure of my Community Warden role.

*Jackie West  
Community Warden*



## Thursday Lunch Club

Over 60? Come and dine with us at 12:00 noon every Thursday at the Youth & Community Centre. Our diners enjoy a freshly cooked quality two course meal prepared by our professional cook. The £6.00 charge includes tea or coffee.

For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01474 702760



## Ash & Ridley WI Doris Ashton

28th Nov 1926 - 13th Feb 2022

Many of our residents will remember Doris, so here is a short piece about her life, culled from various sources including my own memory, but mainly from what her daughter Charlotte said about her at the recent Memorial Service held at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Ash on 4<sup>th</sup> May, when Doris's ashes were interred in the grave of her late husband, George.

Doris was born in South East London. Her father was a City of London policeman. He was keen on music and sports and encouraged his daughters to swim by taking them, before breakfast, to the swimming baths close to where they lived in the Old Kent Road. Sometimes they would watch the police water polo team practising. Doris did so well that she was awarded the under 12s South London Championship Medal.

With the outbreak of War, she was evacuated first to Worthing and then to Rickmansworth Girls, where she became part of the Land Army. She had an aptitude for sciences and wrote to ICI to apply for a job as a lab assistant. Later she moved into publishing and by 1949 she was a sub-editor. In 1960, having moved to a photographic magazine she met George who was to become her husband. They enjoyed going to the theatre, the Proms and watching cricket at the Oval. By this time, she was working at the Readers' Digest and was involved with books on gardening, birds and wildlife.

Together they moved to Ash in 1963/4 to a house in Wallace Terrace where Doris lived for thirty years, tending the big garden and getting involved in village life. In about 1966 Doris joined the WI and soon joined

the committee, being at various times Treasurer, President and a District Rep for Hartley District. In 1969 she sang in The Brilliant & the Dark by Malcolm Williamson & Ursula Vaughan Williams at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the WI choir: it was something she often referred to with great pride and affection. Doris made lots of friends with the WI and it was Doris who welcomed me as a new member when she was doing a stint as President c1980.

Latterly, she moved to New Ash Green when her garden in Ash got too big to manage and created a lovely garden there which included a pond. Only last spring Doris rang me in great excitement to announce the arrival of frog spawn and I went to view it so that she could share her enthusiasm with the rest of our members by writing about it in a WI newsletter. It was, of course, a challenging time for all of us, when we weren't allowed to meet.

Doris enjoyed many special interest holidays, courses at Denman, the former WI college, her membership of the RSPB, involvement with Gravesham Choral Society and lived independently until the end of her life. In fact, it was only in January this year that she managed, with great pleasure, and with Charlotte's assistance, to join a WI Zoom meeting for the first time.

A long life lived independently with stoicism and humour.

*Isabel MacLeod  
on behalf of Ash & Ridley*



## Northfield - New Meadow

The Northfield Management Committee is planning to create a new wildflower meadow, similar to those around New Ash Green.

Jerry Ash from New Ash Green Woodlands Group has been assisting the Committee in formulating a grass seed mix to encourage a biodiverse meadow.



## Take a Seat

The Parish Council received Covid-19 grant funding as part of Sevenoaks Council's Welcome Back Fund. This has allowed us to provide four recycled plastic benches.

We have located these at Ash War Memorial, Ridley Farm and two at New Ash Green Sportsfield.

