

Amenities Committee – Annual Report 2015 - 2016

This has been my first year in the new term as Chairman of the Amenities Committee although I have previously served on the Committee for a number of years and indeed was Chairman several years ago. It has been a pleasure to Chair this Committee. It has been another full and busy year.

There was no Fun Day in July 2015 but instead a Picnic in the Park was held in September 2015 with a concert given by the Friary Guildford Brass Band. The concert was held to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest serving monarch in British history. The Events Working Group are currently considering ways to celebrate the monarch's 90th birthday in June. Watch out for further details in the Parish Newsletter 'Ash Matters' as we are currently in the planning stage.

The Christmas Fantasia took place at the end of November and seemed to be ever more popular with visitors coming from far and wide to stroll around the Christmas Fair in the Ash Centre and attend the switching on of the Christmas tree lights at the Wharf. The event was once again supported by many local businesses and organisations within the Parish, which was much appreciated by Staff and Councillors. The festive lights in the village certainly provided a wonderful feeling of goodwill during the festive season.

The concert on 21 November 2015 saw a second visit of the year from The Guildford Friary Brass Band. Once again this was a very popular and successful event with all proceeds going to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. The concert raised in total approximately £1,500.

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service took place on Sunday 9 November and despite unpromising weather conditions, the rain held off for the duration. The Parade was led by the Chairman of the Council, Nigel Manning and Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath, the Rt Hon Michael Gove. The Service of Remembrance was conducted by members of the local clergy and a number of service personnel, including members of the Royal British Legion and other uniformed organisations took part in the wreath laying ceremony. Once again attendance at this Parade was extremely high and it was wonderful to see age groups across generations taking part and paying respects to those who had served their country during times of conflict.

For the sixth year in a row Ash Parish Council ran its own Ash in Bloom competition, which certainly brought out the keen gardeners of the Parish. It was a delight to see the visual efforts of so many gardeners of the Parish. That together with the hanging baskets displayed throughout the village, certainly made Ash a much brighter and welcoming place to live in during the spring, summer and autumn of 2015. We are as ever very grateful to Mike and Jane Duffy from Budgens who supported the event. Both Mike and Jane have been an integral part of our village community for a number of years and we are all very sad that they have now moved on but we wish them every success.

Throughout the year, the Parish have continued a number of programmes to keep our village one that we are proud to live in, in particular street lights have been upgraded and the recreational spaces have been maintained to a high standard.

As Chairman of the Amenities Committee I would like to thank all the Members of Ash Parish Council and the Parish staff for their commitment and support during this last year.

Cllr Jayne Hewlett
Chairman of the Amenities Committee