

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CHARITY OF THE JAMES PAYNE MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDED BY WINIFRED MASSEY - ANNUAL REPORT MAR 2015**

Background

Miss Winifred Massey willed the Hereford House capital to the parishioners of Ash in 1966, in recognition of the work done by James Payne in the village, early in the Twentieth Century.

James Payne was a local florist and market gardener around 1900, and was heavily involved in local Parish affairs. After the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897, APC resolved to erect a monument to the great lady. James Payne persuaded APC to build Ash Victoria Hall as a memorial and as a building for the entire parish.

In 1900 a Local doctor – Dr Chester, in memory of his mother who died in 1898, added a three-face clock to the Hall. The specification for this clock was that it should be audible for all of Ash Parish to hear with tubular bells for striking the hours and chiming the quarters. So the clock and it's ringing have been important to the villagers for 115 years.

The charity makes payments of minor grants to parishioners or local organisations giving specific benefit to Ash parishioners. The Trustees are restricted to benefiting Ash residents only. Organisations which have a large proportion of non-Ash members, are excluded.

There are many people in local society who have given so much to village life, including the three I have mentioned above, and John Ades for example, more recently. They have given to the village for no personal gain but that they are able to!

Grants

1. With the help of Ash and District Local Museum Society we have finally decided on the form of the headstone for Miss Massey, and it has been ordered. The granite is being delivered soon and we expect delivery in a few months. We will inform everybody in the Ash Parish Council Newsletter, Ash Matters, when it has been installed.

2. As highlighted above many people have helped voluntarily to improve our village asking little but giving so much. A current example is Norma Wallace who has cared for the John Ades Memorial Garden at her own expense. The Trust has decided to donate £300 to Norma to enable her to carry on her work, buying plants, tools etc. and a small store to keep the equipment in.

No other suitable organisations or persons have asked for help this year

Investments

Our management policy remains unchanged - to continue maximisation of the Fund's growth, but leaving the returns on assets available for grants.

At the end of Dec 2013, our stockbroker's report advised us not to change any investments, as we appear to be making satisfactory progress.

Over the year the value of our assets (shares) has dropped slightly to £171580 (5 Jan 2015), with a further £6608 in our bank accounts. Our income from investments was £8095.

Future Donations

The trustees will be pleased to give consideration to all applications from Ash parishioners or organisations, for grants or other forms of financial assistance, subject to the terms of the Charity.

Such applications, or indeed, any enquiries concerning the Fund, should be made to the Secretary to the Trustees, The James Payne Memorial Fund, Council Offices, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey, GU12 5DP.

WILLIAM COLE (Secretary/Treasurer)