



ASH MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 58

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The museum is closed for the time being due to the coronavirus, but we are still putting pictures on facebook, answering email enquiries, and regularly monitoring conditions in the chapel and archive. Please do record your memories of what happened locally in these exceptional times. Just send them to the museum and we will preserve them for the future. Keep safe everyone.

WORK IN THE CHAPEL OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK 2000



Brian, Eileen and Sally (trustees) in the Cemetery Chapel over the Christmas break 2000, making an inventory of the contents of the cold, damp building before restoration. The museum opened to visitors in May 2003.



THE HISTORY OF ASH, ASH VALE, ASH GREEN AND TONGHAM

Ash Museum, Cemetery Chapel, Ash Cemetery, Ash Church Road, Ash, Surrey GU12 6LX

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BETTY AND MABEL FRY OF HEATHCOTE SCHOOL

These specimens were sewn with blue or pink cotton to show the neatness of joins and the size of stitches. It was a great day when you were allowed to make a pair of 'knickers'! These were gathered at the waist and knee. However, you were only allowed to make one leg per scholar, so whoever brought their money first was allowed to take the pair home triumphantly! These sewing lessons were a great trial to the children who were not able with their hands, and their calico became ingrained with dirt and often washed with their tears.



Made by Betty Fry to show to the Third Year Children



In this picture Mabel Fry is second from right in back row and Olive Scard is immediately in front of her. Their teacher is Miss Taylor and it was taken in 1921. (65/1/10/2)

Betty and Mabel Fry attended Heathcote School. Elizabeth attended from January 1915 to 1922 and Mabel from April 1919 to 1925. They both became teachers.

Their father Charles was a baker and confectioner. In 1911 he and his wife Emma Kate ran the shop at 30 Station Road Aldershot, which readers may remember as the Jersey Bakery. In 1914 they moved to Ash with their two daughters but sadly Charles died in December the same year.

In 1916 Mrs Fry was the owner of Pear Tree Cottage and four new cottages in Church Path. By 1921 she lived at 8 Heathcote Close, where she stayed until her death in 1956. Fry's Acre, off College Road, bears their family name.

The family grave is in section E at Ash Cemetery: Elizabeth Alice died in 1988 and Mabel Duffell died in 1998.

These "knickers", made by Betty Fry to show the third year children, were displayed in the exhibition held at Heathcote School before it was closed in 1987. The other photos are from the same exhibition.

(65/1/16/1)



Two Heathcote School teachers, Miss May Gatehouse and Miss Betty Fry. (65/1/4/7)



Betty is the Scottish girl on the left and Mabel is the Welsh girl on the left. (65/1/6/1)



Miss Fleming, a former teacher, visited Heathcote School (formerly called Ash Common School) on its 125th birthday in 1985 and met some of her former pupils. Left to right: Olive Scard, Miss Fleming, Beatrice Hodgkinson, Jean Watts, Enid Alford, Mabel Fry and Betty Fry. (65/1/7/1)

THE ASH BRANCH OF THE COMRADES OF THE GREAT WAR AND THE ASH BRANCH OF THE BRITISH LEGION



In April 1920 the Ash branch of the Comrades of the Great War were planning to erect a hut for use as a club. It was to adjoin the war memorial site, and Mr Cull of Dene Lodge in Ash Green had generously given financial assistance towards the club.

In June a meeting of about 80 discharged and demobilised soldiers took place at the Victoria Hall to decide what should be done with a grant of 5s per man from the profits of the army and navy canteens. There was a vote to decide which of three things to spend the money on. There were 45 votes for handing over all the money to the committee now constructing the club at Ash. There were 12 votes for endowing a bed or beds at the Royal Surrey County Hospital for the exclusive use of ex-soldiers. There were three votes for endowing one bed and the rest going to the club. Using the money for the club would mean that all ex-servicemen would be able to use it, and not just members of the Comrades of the Great War, and there were about 600 ex-servicemen in Ash.

On Sunday 14 Nov 1920 the Annual Church Parade of the Ash branch of the Comrades of the Great War took place at St Peter's Church. Rev FJ Anderson, senior chaplain to the forces, addressed the men.

On Sunday 15 May 1921 the Comrades of the Great War was one of four ex-service associations that amalgamated to form The British Legion.

On the afternoon of Sunday 13 Nov 1921 a special Armistice commemoration service was held at St Peter's Church. Members of the Ash branch of the British Legion marched to the church headed by a military band. An address was given by Rev Anderson, and at the end of the service two buglers sounded the last post.

In late January 1922 Mr Albert Street was chairman of the club and a concert was given at the British Legion Club Room. On Saturday 25 March a concert was given by Sid Williams Concert Party. The first week in April was British Legion campaign week at Ash and 40 new members joined. The rally concluded on Saturday evening with a meeting in the hut, preceded by selection played by the Legion Band conducted by Mr C Higgins. In May the Ash Vale branch of British Legion supplied the band with new brass and reed instruments.



In May 1922 the local schools took part in Empire Day sports in Chester Field. The Ash British Legion Band played lively selections during the afternoon and evening; and a handsome challenge shield, presented by Ash United Cricket and Football Club in 1921, was won by Ash Common School for the second year. The silver shield in the centre is inscribed "School Challenge Shield presented by Ash Cricket and Football Clubs 1921". The shield was presented at a Gymkhana held in early June by the Ash United Cricket and Football Club. This shield can now be seen in the Cemetery Chapel.

On Saturday 8 July there was a gymkhana with athletic sports in Mr Cuthbert Manfield's field opposite the church. There were silver cups for the tent pegging and the tug of war. The baby show was judged by Lady Mabel Malleson of Foxhurst, the wife of Major General Sir Wilfred Malleson. Mr J Gilbert was chairman of the committee and Mr John Bernard Maw,

secretary of the branch, was hon secretary of the committee and clerk of the course. The Ash branch of the British Legion Band played in the afternoon and for the dancing in the evening.

On Saturday 19 August the South-West Surrey District of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes provided an event of sports and games for 500 children of members and friends of the Order in Mr Manfield's meadow in Ash Street. Forty children from the devastated areas of France and Belgium were entertained to tea and sports, and they were each presented with a small souvenir. Ash branch of the British Legion Band attended under bandmaster Higgins.

On Armistice Day, Sunday 12 November 1922, the parade lined up on the Ash Common Recreation Ground under the direction of Mr AEK Cull. There were 250 ex-servicemen, representatives of Ash Parish Council, Ambulance Corps from various districts, members of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Boy Scouts and their band, and ex-servicemen from Guildford under ex-Sgt-Major LC Smyrk. The band of the 13th Hussars and the Ash British Legion Band were in attendance. After a short service at the Ash War Memorial, where Rev FG Lacey officiated, the parade proceeded via Shawfield Road and Ash Street to St Peter's Church, where the Rev FT Anderson ACG CMG DSO, chaplain to the forces at Aldershot, gave an inspiring address. Rev CM Lambrick assisted in the service and several well known hymns were sung, including Rudyard Kipling's "Lest we Forget". Dead silence reigned during the sounding of the Last Post, and the ceremony concluded with the National Anthem. A collection for the Royal Surrey County Hospital raised £6 6s 6d, and after the service the visitors were entertained to tea at the British Legion Club. Several wreathes were placed on the Ash War Memorial on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday evening the Ash branch of the British Legion held a social in the club room, with Mr Street presiding and the Legion Band playing. Over £40 was raised by the sale of poppies in Ash district on Armistice Day.

TONGHAM IN THE SNOW



View towards the Hog's Back. On the left is Manor Farm (which was called Tongham Farm until about 1922). We don't know when the photo was taken. (986/17/3)



Tongham cross-roads with the "White Hart Inn" sign and "AJ Snelgrove Shoeing Smith". (539/1)
