



Ash Matters

The Ash Parish Council Newsletter

Issue One 2024

Council reduces cost to Hire Halls and Kitchen

At a recent Council meeting, Ash Parish Council (APC) agreed to reduce the cost of hire of the Halls, Rooms, and Kitchen at the Ash Centre. The adaptable and spacious design enables the fully air-conditioned Centre to serve admirably as a venue for commercial, social events and sporting activities. The Centre has dedicated parking and easy access for the disabled. With each booking, the Centre Staff will prepare the hall to your specification, managing the placement of tables and chairs for you. To find out more about the facilities on offer, and booking charges, visit our website www.ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/ash-centre.

To book the Ash Centre please email bookings@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk or call **01252 328287**.



Ash Parish Council donates £2600 to Royal Surrey Hospital Charity

Throughout each year Ash Parish Council (APC) organises community events, including the Village Fete and Christmas Fantasia. All the Council's profits are collected from these events and donated to a single charity. Following last year's donation to the Frimley Park Health Charity, for the year ending 31st December 2023 APC collected £2600 which has now been donated to the Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust. This money can be used to purchase new equipment, support new and enhanced facilities, for example, specialist, reclining chemotherapy chairs for our Chemotherapy Day Unit or help support major refurbishments such as the multi-million-pound Cancer Centre refurbishment. To find out more about this charity, visit www.royalsurreycharity.org.uk.



Coronation Car Park to be resurfaced and parking spaces marked

The Parish Council has confirmed that it is to resurface its free to use carpark at Coronation Gardens, opposite the Victoria Hall. Once resurfaced, car park space markings will be painted to allow a more efficient use of the available space. The design is yet to be finalised, but the Council expects to be able to cater for 48 standard and 2 disabled parking bays. Guildford Borough Council has now removed the recycling bins from this car park as that service has now been withdrawn. The nearest waste and recycling centres are Farnham and Camberley. For more information on how to recycle more from your kerb side, visit www.ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/waste-collecting-and-recycling.



New Clerk at Ash Parish Council



The Clerk of Ash Parish Council (APC), Dennis Wheeler, is retiring following a 45-year career within local government. Dennis joined Ash Parish Council in 2016 and later became the Clerk in 2020. Councillors, Staff past and present have extended their thanks for his many years of service, support, and guidance through his time with the Council and wish him well for the future. Alison Watmore replaces Dennis as Clerk from April 2024. She has worked with Ash Parish Council since 2020 and is looking forward to performing her new role as Clerk. *(From the Left Alison Watmore, Dennis Wheeler).*

Ash Youth Club update

The Ash Youth Club Management Committee continues to meet regularly as it fundraises. Their aim is to raise funds to employ a Youth Worker, which will enable an Open Access Youth Club once a week for 11 to 17 years olds.

Hedgehog Highway Project

As part of the Council's objective to promote Biodiversity within our Parish, the Council is supporting the Hedgehog Highway project by donating "Hedgehog Highway Surrounds" and Hedgehog Houses to local schools including Shawfield Primary School, Ash Walsh Infant & Junior School. A Hedgehog Highway is a 5-inch gap in a fence or wall allowing access for Hedgehogs. Other names include 'Hedgehog Door', 'Hedgehog Hole' and 'Hedgehog Tunnel'. These gaps are essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of Hedgehogs. The Hedgehog Highway allows hedgehogs to forage for food, meet mates to breed, and access nesting sites. If you would like to create your own Hedgehog Highway, visit hedgehogsrus.co.uk.



Get involved with the Basingstoke Canal Society:



The Basingstoke Canal Society (BCS) are guardians of the Basingstoke Canal and have been promoting and campaigning for its future since 1966. The BCS are responsible for the upkeep of the Canal, however



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

they continue to struggle to raise the funding needed to maintain the Canal. The Society has stated there is currently a £120,000 shortfall and warns that the survival of the Canal is at risk. As such it has taken action to involve the Community and local businesses with their campaign 'Keep your Canal Alive'. You can become a member for £15 per year. Visit basingstoke-canal.org.uk/keep-your-canal-alive for more information or use the QR code from your mobile device.

The BCS currently has over 290 volunteers, who provide 28,000 hours work per year. These Volunteers are critical to keeping the Canal alive and available to all to use for exercise, sport, relaxation, etc. It's a fantastic local amenity but without our Community's collective help, it is at risk of falling back into disuse. The BCS are currently recruiting for a number of roles, such as Project Leaders, Fundraiser, Marketing, IT Support and more. The full list is available on their website basingstoke-canal.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/volunteering-roles. You can also enquire via phone **01252 370073** or email info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk.

Ashes Good Neighbour Scheme

The Ashes Good Neighbour Scheme launched in October 2023 to help elderly or vulnerable people in our community.



The scheme is offering residents of Ash, Ash Vale, and Ash Green, transport to appointments such as doctors, hospital, and dentist; visit to the library or a club; help with shopping; or simply a friendly chat over a cup of tea. All volunteers who will have face-to-face contact with clients have undertaken a DBS check. **If this would be of benefit to you or someone you know**, please phone **07935 515221**. If you would like to volunteer, please contact via office.ashesgn@gmail.com.



Ash in Bloom 2024

It's that time of year again to start thinking about entering **Ash In Bloom**. A free to enter competition, where residents are asked to submit photographs of their entries in our four categories:

Best Border



Best Tub or Container

Best Hanging Basket

Ash In Bloom

Best Vegetable Patch

The photographs are placed online, and residents are invited to vote for their favourite in each category. The entry with the most public votes in each category wins! In 2023 the winners all received gardening vouchers which were kindly sponsored by **Dover Garage & Squires Garden Centre**.

If you enjoy gardening regularly or even if you only have a few pots or a solitary hanging basket, why not enter **Ash in Bloom 2024**? You can enter yourself or nominate a neighbour, friend, or other Parish resident. The deadline for entries is **7th July 2024** and the photographs **MUST** be **taken this year**. If you are unable to take your own photographs, please contact the Ash Parish Council Office who will make arrangements to help you. **To enter**, email events@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk, stating the competition category, your email address, your full name and your postal address including postcode. Good Luck!

Get involved with the Community Street Team



The Community Street Team have, after 12 years, 'grown their wings' and morphed from just going out to talk to young folk to now helping at local events. We all say "what a lovely community Ash & Ash Vale are" – very true! Would **you** like to help our wonderful Community?

Just an hour or so when needed, at Community events in Ash and Ash Vale such as the Village Fete in June, the Youth Centre (hopefully opening soon), Lakeside Nature Fun Day, Remembrance Day, and Fantasia. Some of the existing volunteers continue to go out talking to anyone, and in particular youngsters who enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. However, the Street Team now do need more volunteers to help with the local events. Would **YOU** like to give an hour or two to help our community? If you would like to know more, please contact Pat Scott scott.lpd@outlook.com.



Warm Welcome Venues and Social Gatherings

Ash currently has three registered **Warm Welcome venues**. These are open to all residents free of charge – no matter your age or situation. Some venues will also be offering additional services and facilities.

- Ash Library, Ash St, Ash, Aldershot GU12 6LF (Library opening hours)
- Community Café at The Chapel on Mondays 9:30-12:30 during Surrey school term time
- St Mary's Church on Fridays 10:00-13:00 with soup/toasties lunch at 12pm.



Food Parcels Project & Community Fridge

Ash Villages Food Parcels Project team have opened a Community Fridge, located at The Chapel, Wharf Rd, GU12 5AY. This project is working closely with the Parish's two local Co-ops. Short shelf-life items are collected on Saturdays, saving good food from being wasted. This is in addition to their regular donations. Residents who wish to donate food items will find a collection container within the Co-op on Wharf Road and Ash Manor School. For **foodbank referrals**, please contact **07730 609446**.



Ash Road Bridge update



Guildford Borough Council has advised that work on the Ash Road Bridge has been forging ahead, despite the impact of several storms over the winter months. The sites have been cleared, site offices installed on the south site, embankments constructed, and piling completed on both sides of the railway. Traffic management is in place with Foreman Road closed between Ash Church Road and Foreman Park. Traffic is being diverted along Grange Road. A **Community Forum** has been set up to give local people an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns about the project. The first forum was held in November 2023. If you're not already signed up and would like to be involved, please email AshRoadBridge@VolkerFitzpatrick.com.

Could you Volunteer with Citizens Advice in 2024

Citizens Advice South West Surrey (CASWS) provides its support with thanks to its volunteers. There are many volunteer roles to fit each individual's skills, availability, experience and/or interests. CASWS is currently seeking additional volunteers in Ash and Guildford, such as Receptionists, Advice Assistants, Assessors and Fundraising volunteers. CASWS is a respected advice network dedicated to working to improve the lives of people in our Community. If you would like to find out more about how you could volunteer with CASWS please visit casws.org.uk/support-us/volunteer. You can also email recruitment@casws.org.uk for an application pack.



Ash Parish Council Meeting Dates

The Council meets face to face on the **2nd Monday** of each month, except in August, for its full Council meetings. The Planning Committee and the Amenities, Finance & Administration (AFA) Committee usually meet on the 4th Monday of every month. These Committee meetings are currently being held virtually. Please visit the Ash Parish Council website www.ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/meetings. All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and provision is made for public questions.

<u>Diary Dates For 2024</u>
Village Fete (29 th June)
Ash in Bloom (Enter by 7 th July)
Remembrance Sunday (10 th Nov)
Ash Fantasia (29 th Nov)

Useful phone numbers

<p>999 For Emergencies 101 Police Non-emergencies 111 NHS Non-emergencies 01483 505050 Guildford Borough Council</p>	<p>0800 111 999 Gas Emergency 0333 000 0365 South East Water leak emergency 0800 316 9800 Thames Water leak emergency 105 Power Cut</p>
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Your Ash Parish Councillors

Ash Parish Councillors	Telephone No.	E-mail	Ward
CLlr Sara Badger	07925 702652	sara.badger@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash South Ward)
CLlr Carl Cookson	07533 249212	carl.cookson@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash South Ward)
CLlr Mohammad Faisal	07969 520374	mohammad.faisal@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash South Ward)
CLlr Paul Golding	07554 010595	paul.golding@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash South Ward)
CLlr Richard Lucas	07834 020422	richard.lucas@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Vale Ward)
CLlr Nigel Manning	01252 665999	nigel.manning@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Vale Ward)
CLlr Carla Morson	07843 489796	carla.morson@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Vale Ward)
CLlr Marsha Moseley	01252 665999	marsha.moseley@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Vale Ward)
CLlr Philip Bellamy	07818 821341	philip.bellamy@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Wharf Ward)
CLlr Michael Moriarty	07579 61796	michael.moriarty@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Wharf Ward)
CLlr John Tonks	07754 679296	john.tonks@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Wharf Ward)
CLlr Fiona White	07818 270907	fiona.white@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk	(Ash Wharf Ward)

