



Ash Matters

The Ash Parish Council Newsletter

Issue One 2025

8th May 2025 VE Day 80th Anniversary

On Thursday 8th May 2025, residents are invited to the Ash Centre to mark the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. The event is free to attend and will take place between 12 noon and 2 pm. As well as light refreshments, sandwiches and cake will be available to all that attend. This community event is aimed at all age ranges, to meet and discuss past experiences, as well as viewing artifacts from the Ash Museum. The Peace Day Poppy wall will also be on display, which marks on a map the names and residents of all the soldiers from Ash that died in WW1 & 2.

To help plan our catering, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Ash Parish Council Office Reception (01252 328287 | office@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk).



Ash Parish Council Donates £2727.37 To The Ash Villages Food Parcels Project Team



Each year, Ash Parish Council (APC) organises community events, including the Village Fete and Christmas Fantasia. All the profits from the event are collected and donated to a single charity. Last year the council's nominated charity was the Ash Villages Food Parcels Project. On the 12th of February 2025, Alison Watmore (Clerk), Cllr Fiona White (Chairman) & Cllr John Tonks (Events Chairman) presented the donation on behalf of Ash Parish Council to Alex Anderson, (Food Parcels Project Manager). This donation will benefit local residents,

delivering emergency food and toiletries to local people in crisis. In 2024, APC also donated £2600 from its 2023 fundraising, which was donated to the Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust.

Food Parcels Project & Community Fridge

The Ash Villages Food Parcels Project team maintain a Community Fridge, located at The Chapel, Wharf Rd, GU12 5AY. This project is working closely with local supermarkets. Short shelf-life items are collected and made available to all, 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**.

Investment In Accessible Play Equipment

Ash Parish Council (APC) has installed new accessible Play Equipment in the Shawfield Recreation Ground playground. The roundabout has been installed as part of the Council's objective to ensure accessible play equipment is available in all APC play parks. The fenced children's play area includes swings, climbing frames, slides and a roundabout. A Kick wall, including a basketball net, is located on the open recreation ground. APC has also recently completed several improvements to our play parks including the Ash Recreation Ground and Harpers Recreation Ground.



Ashes Good Neighbour Scheme



The Ashes Good Neighbour Scheme is set up 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



What Is The Ash Neighbourhood Plan?

Ash Parish Council is creating a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Ash and will be consulting with residents for their say. A NP cannot outright prevent development or planning applications, but it can influence and shape development in a way that aligns with the community's priorities and needs. It complements the broader local plan prepared by the local planning authority but focuses specifically on the needs and aspirations of the Parish's residents. For example, a Neighbourhood Plan might suggest:

- The number and type of homes to be built to meet local needs.
- Protection for specific green spaces or wildlife corridors.
- Design standards for new developments to match the Parish's rural character.

Ash Parish Council will announce its community engagement and consultation on all Parish notice boards and website. It should be noted that not all views expressed at different stages in this process will be included in the final plan. Through consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan is intended to reflect the majority view of the residents and will formally be agreed upon by a public referendum. To find out the latest information and updates on forthcoming consultations, please visit our website www.ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/ANP.



Chester Bridge Is Now Open



The new Chester Bridge in Ash opened to cars and buses on Saturday 8 February 2025. This marked the start of the final stage in the construction of the Ash Road Bridge project to provide the much-needed new crossing across the railway, improving road safety and cutting congestion caused by the level crossing. The name was chosen by a panel of judges including local historians, a former Councillor for Ash, and students from Ash Manor School. Residents had submitted over 400 names, with the winning name, Chester Bridge, being suggested by both Andrew Reid and

Beverley Jennings. Their submission referenced the Chester Arms pub which was situated near the station and took its name from the Chester family who lived nearby in Poyle Park. The most well-known was Dr Henry Morris Chester who was a major benefactor in the area. If you would like to know more about the Chester family, visit the Ash Museum on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Also see their website www.ashmuseum.org.uk.

Briars Playground Rebuilt as a "Safari Adventure Play Area"



Guildford Borough Council (GBC) has enhanced its playground at The Briars, located on South Lane in South Ash. This initiative is part of the council's commitment to maintaining a family-friendly and green environment, funded through local development contributions and part-funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The council recently sought public input on the proposed new design for the playground. The consultation proposed a "Safari Adventure" design, with updated play equipment and a new layout. The new proposals included dedicated areas for Toddlers and Juniors.

Bartlett Group Practice Online Appointment Booking

There are several ways to get the medical advice you need. The Bartlett now offers face-to-face appointments and advice via an online consultation (Rapid Health). Appointments are available throughout the day during their opening hours and can be booked online. If you need assistance to complete the online form, a member of our reception team will be available to assist either by phone or in person at reception. To book an appointment visit www.bartlettgrouppractice.co.uk.

Ash Youth Club Update

The Ash Youth Club Management Committee meets regularly and continues to fundraise. The committee is getting closer to reaching its funding goal and being able to open the Youth Club to the community once a week for 11- to 17-year-olds. The club is in need of volunteers and a youth worker to run events at the centre, so if you would like to learn more or get involved with the Youth Club, please reach out to the committee via Phil.Bellamy@guildford.gov.uk.



Ash In Bloom 2025

It's that time of year again to start thinking about entering Ash In Bloom. A free to enter a 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 2024 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 2025**? From the beginning of June, you can enter yourself or nominate a neighbour, friend, or other Parish resident. The deadline for entries is **August 31st2025** 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!

Council Hall And Kitchen Hire

The Ash Centre provides competitively priced Halls, Meeting Rooms, and a Kitchen. 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 specifications, managing the placement of tables and chairs for you and cleaning the floors. A Receptionist will remain on-site throughout your booking to resolve any issues you may have. 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**.



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



Have You Visited The Parish Directory?

Our Parish Directory is a list of local, regional and national organisations and people that residents of Ash Parish may find useful. If you would like to be added to the Directory or know of something else that may be useful to our residents, then please contact lowan.daley@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk. Find the Parish Directory on our website www.ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/directory.



Pharmacy First

Pharmacy First is an NHS initiative that makes it easy for you to get healthcare advice and treatment for common conditions through your local pharmacy. The Ash Vale Pharmacy & Travel Clinic on Wharf Road is Ash's nearest registered pharmacy offering this service. There is no need for a GP appointment or prescription for issues like:

Sinusitis, Sore throat, Earache, Infected insect bites, Impetigo, Shingles, and Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women. Pharmacists can also help with a variety of Minor Ailments, Medication Advice, Repeat Prescription and health Living Advice. To speak to the Ash Vale Travel clinic about its Pharmacy First services, call **01252 330377** or visit www.ashvaletravelclinic.co.uk.

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.

Diary Dates For 2025
VE Day 80 Years (8 th May)
Village Fete (28 th June)
Ash in Bloom (Enter by 31 st August)
Remembrance Sunday (9 th Nov)
Ash Fantasia (29 th Nov)

More information of useful numbers and contacts are available on the www.ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/directory

Useful Phone Numbers

For Emergencies 999	Police Non-emergencies 101	NHS Non-emergencies 111	Power Cut 105
Age UK 01483 503414		Frimley Park Hospital 0300 614 5000	
Ash Vale Pharmacy & Travel Clinic 01252 330377		Gas Emergency 0800 111 999	
Ashes Good Neighbours 07935 515221		Graffiti Removal 01483 505 050	
Bartlett Group Practice (GP) 01252 317551		Guildford Borough Council 01483 505050	
Bins & Recycling 01483 505 050		Housing Emergency 01483 517 898	
Childline 0800 1111		Reporting blocked public drains 0800 316 9800	
Citizens Advice South West Surrey 0808 812 7087		Royal Surrey Hospital 01483 571 1222	
Environmental Agency 0800 80 70 60 - (report items that may cause a flood risk)		Samaritans 116 123	
Flooding & Sandbags 01344 494 374		Fresh water leak emergency 0333 000 0365 - (South East Water)	
Foodbank Referrals 07730 609446		Street Repairs 0300 200 1003 (Surrey County Council)	
		Road Drains & Sewage (Thames Water) 0800 316 9800	

Your Ash Parish Councillors

Ash Parish Councillors	Telephone No.	E-mail	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	07857 961796	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)

