The Chairman and Councillors of Ash-cum-Ridley extend a warm invitation to all parishioners in Ash, New Ash Green, Hodsoll Street and Ridley to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. This is your opportunity to come along and hear about the work that has been undertaken by the Council over the past year, ask questions and make your views known on local issues. Are you satisfied with the policing, roads, transport, fire arrangements, management of Northfield and arrangements for youth?

At the meeting, the Parish Council and Lances Almshouse Charity Accounts will be available.

Guest speakers are: Cllr D Brazier - KCC Chairman, Mr Gareth Johnson MP and Mr D Munn — Public Rights of Way.

The Parish Council is made up of 16 serving Councillors who are all unpaid elected local residents. They are supported by a full time Parish Clerk and a part-time Assistant Clerk. Full Council meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month in rotation at Ash Village Hall, Hodsoll Street Village Hall, New Ash Green Village Association meeting room and the New Ash Green Youth & Community Centre.

IVOR STONEHAM (1944—2018)

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Ivor Stoneham on 14th February. Universally well respected and held in great affection, Ivor was a generous benefactor who leased the land to the Parish Council for the provision of a children’s play area. He opened his home and grounds to raise funds for both the refurbishment of the Hodsoll Street & Ridley Village Hall and his favourite charity “Help for Heroes”. For many years he provided the Christmas tree for the village green and delighted in playing Santa at the children’s Christmas party.

Always willing to pitch in and help we are richer for his contribution but poorer for his passing.

Thank you Ivor, you will be greatly missed.
OUTDOOR THEATRE

The very popular Rude Mechanical Theatre Company will be coming back to New Ash Green Primary School field this summer on Sunday 3rd June. It will be their 20th year of touring and the play is ‘Oberon’s Cure’. In this prequel to ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ an old goat of a fairy is not capable of resisting a beautiful young woman. Now when has that not been in the news recently! A funny and at times deeply romantic play about how we deal with desire. It starts at 7.30pm as usual, but you can get there from 6.00pm with your picnics. Bring your own low backed chairs and warm clothes. Tickets are available online from the Rudes’ website – www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk. You won’t want to miss this funny, romantic and rather poetic offering from the Rudes.

COMMUNITY “POP IN”

Kent County Council Community Warden Jackie West has initiated the New Ash Green Community Hub which was launched with a Community Pop In on Tuesday 01 May 2018. The “Pop in” will be held every first Tuesday of the month from 10am—12 noon in the New Ash Green Village Hall, Centre Road. Residents have a chance to meet up over a cup of tea and piece of cake.—Everyone is welcome.

Jackie is looking for volunteers to help with the Pop in, if you can help, please contact her on 07811 271259

FROM THE YOUTH OF NEW ASH GREEN

We would like to say a big thank you to the Village Trust for giving us another chance to have youth club in the building again. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for funding the youth club. Having a youth club open gives us something to do and keeps us off the streets. It also keeps us out of trouble and brings us together.

During the club we are currently working on a project to try and acquire a space for the older young people in New Ash Green. This space is to make use of and hang out at during the evenings that we do not have youth club.

We are also hoping to go on a Motocross trip in May with the youth club too.

Every young person aged 13-19 years old is welcome to come along to club on a Wednesday evening. Club starts at 6:30pm, for more information please call Roxanne Frost from West Kent Communities on: 07834 633531.

PCSO STEVE VINCENT

Hello New Ash Green, I just wanted to re-introduce myself. My name is PCSO Steve Vincent, I have been a PCSO for 11 years and this is the start of my 2nd spell in New Ash Green having covered the area previously about 3 years ago. I will be working alongside PCSO Ann Etter and also covering Hartley, Hodsoll Street, South Darenth, Horton Kirby, Farningham, Crockenhill & Well Hill.

If you wish to contact me then please feel free to e-mail me on 56507@kent.pnn.police.uk and I will respond as soon as possible. I look forward to meeting some of you in and around the village.

ASH VILLAGE HALL

MOTLEY ASH DRAMS PRESENT:

Midsummer Madness—a mixed bag of songs & sketches
SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2018 at 8.00pm
Doors open 7.30pm
Tickets £7 Available from PETS PANTRY or 01474 872767/01474 872333
jeanbentley51@gmail.com
Donations for drinks and raffle
All proceeds to support Ash Village Hall Fund
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Keep up to date with our new facebook page (Ash cum Ridley Parish Council)

SPEED INDICATOR (SID)

Between 08 March and 31 March 2018 the total vehicle count travelling past the Millfield Lane site was 74,856. The penalty for the highest speed recorded would have been a fine of 150% of the weekly wage, disqualification for 56 days and 6 points on the driver’s licence.

THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

OVER 60? Come and dine with us at 12:00
Every Thursday at the Youth & Community Centre
Our diners enjoy a freshly cooked quality two course meal prepared by our professional cook.
The £5.50 charge includes tea or coffee.
For more information please contact the Parish Clerk on 01474 702760

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The majority of us like living in New Ash Green. We enjoy the rural feel and take pride in our surroundings. Unfortunately a very small minority sometimes spoil it for everyone else and recently we have had a number of complaints about the level of anti-social behaviour. If these incidents are not reported, the Police and Community Safety Units are unaware of the issues and resources will not be allocated to this area. An on-line reporting service has been introduced to help residents have an alternative to calling 101. Reports can also be made to the Community Safety Unit at Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000

BYE BYE BOVIS

The Parish Council has been informed by Bovis Homes that they will be relocating their Head Office from New Ash Green to Kings Hill in June/July this year.
The Parish Council has been in discussions with Bovis regarding the future use of the site and the Parish Council view is to retain it as an employment site.

NORTHFIELD & HORSE RIDING ROUTE

The Northfield Management Committee has installed a new kissing gate on the Ash Road entrance to Northfield and the concrete bollard has been replaced with steel bollards.
Additional dog waste bins have been installed at this entrance and the entrance adjacent to Milestone Academy.
An off-road horse-ride around the perimeter of Northfield is available for any local rider to join.
£20 Key deposit and £5 annual fee.
Application packs available from Ash Green Sports Centre Telephone: 01474 707164

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES WALK

The Parish Council supports the Healthy Lifestyles Weekly Walk—Just turn up on Wednesdays at the New Ash Green Library at 10.30am, or on Thursdays at Hartley Library at 10am. They are not too energetic and last about an hour.

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: 01474 702760
Email: info@acrpc.org.uk
Website: www.hugofox.com/community/ash-cum-ridley-parish-council-12628
Hodsoll Street and Ridley Village Hall is excellently equipped for meetings of up to 80 (lecture theatre style) or up to 50 at tables. In addition there is a small meetings room suitable for up to 10. The bright and airy interior contains modern toilet, baby changing and disabled facilities, a well equipped kitchen, WiFi, digital projector and screen and PA systems. There is good parking and in warm weather you can spill out on to the rear lawn – a good spot for the Hall’s table-tennis table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slimming World</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Weekly: Monday 7-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Weekly: Wednesday 7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>U3A Art Club</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Fortnightly: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10-12am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Breakfast</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Monthly: 1st Saturday of the month 9-11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camera Club</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Monthly: 3rd Friday of the month 7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>U3A Camera Club</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Monthly: 1st Friday of the month 10am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>U3A Money Matters</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Monthly: last Thursday of the month 10-12am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acorns Craft Club</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>Monthly: second Saturday of the month 10am-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Fete</td>
<td>Hodsdoll Street Village Green</td>
<td>24th June 1-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Barbeque and Garden Competition</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>28th July 4-7pm</td>
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Bookings (£12/hour) and details of future events are available from Lizzie Thomas 01732 823 707, mob: 07917 184 155, email: elathomas@hotmail.co.uk or on the Village Hall web site: www.hodsollstreet-ridley.co.uk

THE COFFEE CARAVAN COMES TO TOWN

From May to July the Coffee Caravan will pay four visits to Hodsoll Street. The what? you may ask. The Coffee Caravan is an idea pioneered in Suffolk to counter “rural isolation” and is based on the premise that nobody should be disadvantaged just because they live in a rural, rather than urban, area. The initiative has proved extremely successful in the fifteen years that it has been running in Suffolk (see this link for a video: www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk).

Kent’s own Coffee Caravan has been operating throughout the County during 2017 and has also proved to be very popular. And now it’s the turn of Hodsoll Street. The Caravan will visit on the following dates, all at 10.30am – 12.30 pm: Tuesday 8th May, Tuesday 5th June, Tuesday 3rd July, Tuesday 31st July

DEFIBRILLATOR

Hodsoll Street and Ridley Village Hall Association has recently carried out a fund-raising exercise in order to purchase and maintain a defibrillator for the local community. At present the nearest defibrillator is in New Ash Green. Thanks to the generosity of several local charities and to the success of a very entertaining Valentine’s Day Quiz the defibrillator has now been purchased and is ready for installation in the redundant phone box next to the Village Hall.

Modern defibrillators are highly automated and will talk users through the defibrillation process. However, it is intended to organise two first aid and defibrillator training sessions for local residents. The purchase of the defibrillator wouldn’t have been possible without the generous help of the following donors:

Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum, Swanley and North Downs Lions Club, Ash-cum-Ridley Masonic Lodge, Barbara Macknish for proceeds from snowdrop sales
Numerous anonymous local residents

ASH GREEN SPORTS CENTRE

If you have an interest in personal health and fitness we have the facilities and trainers to assist you achieve your goals. Two qualified trainers can provide personalised training programmes during your FREE induction to suit your personal needs and goals. This will take in to account age, any physical restrictions and health needs. Contact 01474 707164.
email info@ashgreensportscentre.co.uk or visit our website
Run and Managed by Ash – cum-Ridley Parish Council

The Hodsole Street Defibrillator will be installed here