

EXHIBITION



ASH CIVIL PARISH SOMERSET



ASH 90 Village Exhibition

SATURDAY AUGUST 24th and MONDAY AUGUST 26th

10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

SUNDAY AUGUST 25th

2.30 p.m. - 6.0 p.m.

Souvenir Guide

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PHOTOGRAPH FRONT COVER	:	Haymaking - Jack Lemon with his children, Olive, Sylvia, Alan and Robert at work in Doles Field about the year 1910
PHOTOGRAPHS BACK COVER	:	Mr. Abraham Vickery on a round in the village with his hardware supplies in the thirties. Church Outing by charabanc in the early thirties at the fast rate of 12 m.p.h.



PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman : Mr. C. Smith
Councillors : Miss E. Bell, Mrs. V. Derrick, Mr. A. Hallett
Mr. J. Mosedale, Mrs. F. Kitchin, Mr. D. Shaw.

ORGANISATIONS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Vicar : Prebendary P. Coney
assisted by Canon R. Stephenson

ASH V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head : Mr. E.E. Fazakerley

VILLAGE HALL

Chairman : Mr. L. Bluck

SOCIETIES, CLUBS

Women's Institute, Ash Rovers Football Club,
Mothers & Toddlers, Tuesday Tea Club,
Youth Club, Gardening Club, Whist Drives,
Old Time Dancing, The Ash Log (Village News
Letter)

COMMERCIAL

Ash Sub Post Office & Village Stores
The Bell Inn
Englands, builders
Geoff Rodford, plant hire

Appreciation is expressed to Tony Langdon of Crewkerne, Somerset Record Office, Bartlett Construction Group and Yeovil College for the loan of screens.

ASH - NINETY YEARS ON

Prior to 1895, Ash would have been governed by Martock's Vestry, which was the parish 'parliament'. The successors to this ancient body were the parish councils, introduced by an act of Parliament in 1894. The civil body of Ash Parish was initiated in 1895, a body distinct from the church parish created in 1845. An open meeting, known as the parish meeting, was convened annually to elect a committee of councillors. They in turn appointed a chairman.

From the old Minute books of the Council, we get a glimpse of the standing of the new parish council. 75 voters took part in the first election at the schoolroom. 10 candidates stood, of whom 5 were elected. Ash soon exerted its new independence by refusing to support the expenses of Martock's fire brigade from the rates, but asking that they be paid from private subscriptions. Rates were collected locally by an elected collector. Two Overseers of the Poor were elected to the local Board of Guardians. A waywarden was elected to look after the roads. Pressure was exerted to improve the postal services, with the opening of a local post office in 1896. A wall pillar box followed in 1898. Allotments for 17 villagers were started in 1899. Footpaths, flooding and drainage were a constant concern. Celebrations of national events were initiated by the Council. In its first years, meetings took place at 3 monthly intervals.

Before the World War 1, there was a demand for improvements in housing, drainage and refuse collection. A drain was laid in Main Street in 1911. The first council houses were delayed until 1927. Refuse collection was begun by private contract in 1929. Main sewerage had to wait until 1967.

The business and concerns of the Council expanded considerably after 1945 with more housing developments, the building of the Village Hall, the making of the Recreation field, the provision of a car park and finally the building of the Pavilion and car park there. Monthly meetings had become essential.

It is frequently said that the powers of a parish council are very limited. But consider how important it is for locally elected councillors to exert the influence they do possess for the benefit of the people they represent. Weigh in the balance the real achievements of Ash Parish Council over 90 years and its care for the amenities of village life in less spectacular details. And then in looking forward to its centenary in 1995, what plans remain to be implemented which villagers reckon are necessary to make our community well-balanced and provided for and to ensure a healthy and pleasant environment.

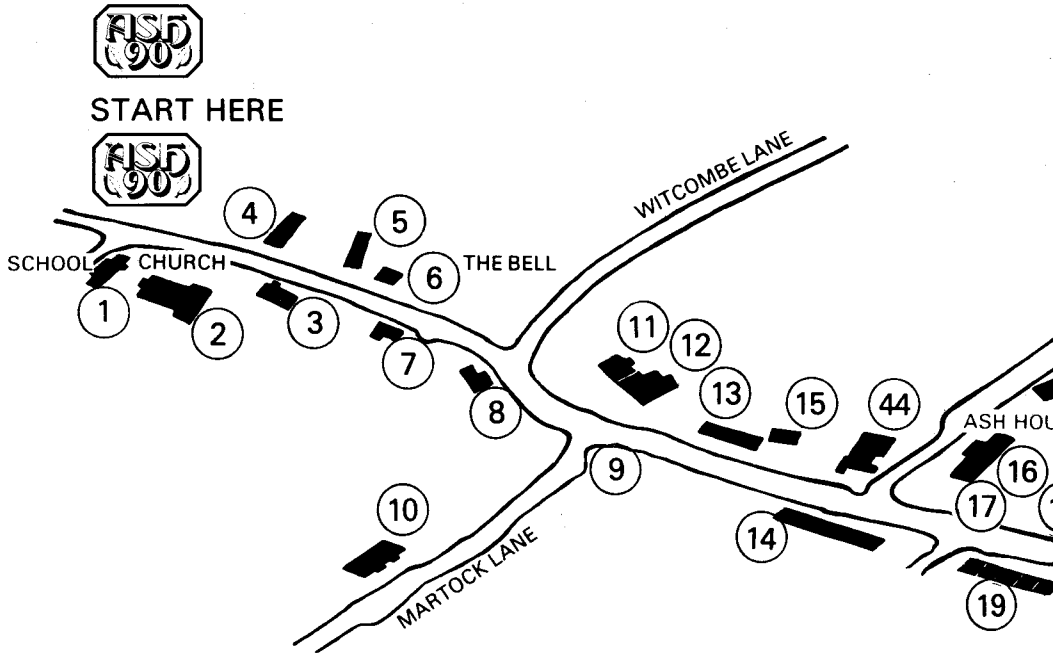
"Ash is not what it used to be." How could it be? It is always changing, whilst changes now take place at a much faster rate. Ash, it is certain, had a community life of its own with functions well supported by many who were known to each other through regular contact in worship or work or social occasions. Is this life still continuing? To judge by the voluntary organisations and regular activities, it is very much alive. A royal celebration or a village fete brings people



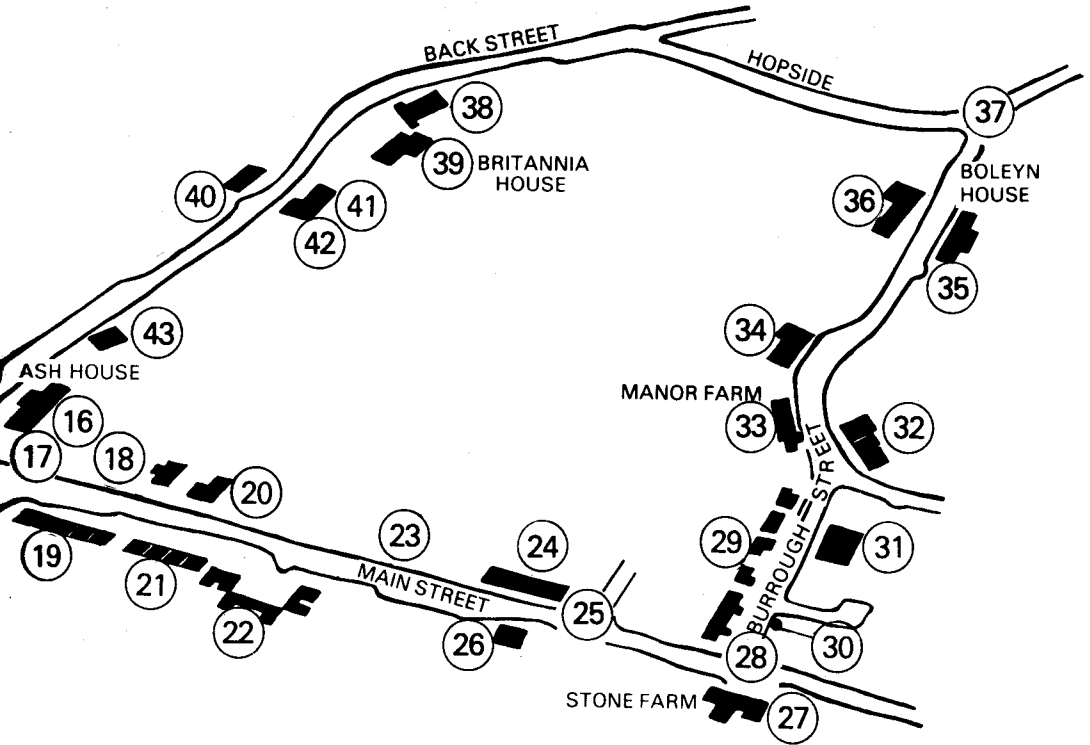
John and Harriet Smitherham with family, outside 'The Bell'. Early this century they were shown as beer retailers.

together like no other event, but apart from these, the church and school remain at the centre and Ash is fortunate to have kept them. Then there are the families who have been represented here for five or six generations at least, giving a reinforcement of a continuing line. Underneath all these is an unofficial network of caring and concern which is the golden thread of village life. This makes a place good to live in. Long may Ash retain its spirit of friendliness!

WALK THROUGH HISTORY AROUND THE VILLAGE OF ASH



Directions: With the guide in your hand, start in the car park opposite the school and follow the numbers down Main Street. It is only possible to give the barest details about each item, but it is hoped that you will be interested in Ash and its past.



Main Street and Highway are certainly older than any written records can show. They are near enough to the Fosse Way to have been associated with the Romans. For over a hundred years from 1760, this route was a turnpike road with payments to be made for transit.


WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Buildings of Interest See sketch map for numbers:

1. **Ash School.** The main schoolroom was erected in 1846 and extended in 1892. Date stone on the E. side. The room was used for all village functions until the Village Hall was erected.
2. **Holy Trinity Church.** Foundation stone was laid in 1840. Originally a chapel of ease, the nave only. Builder was Joseph Rodford. Chancel added in 1889. Tower completed in 1920 as a War Memorial and Thanksgiving for Peace. Contractors: F.J.T. England & Sons.
3. **The Old Vicarage.** Built between 1841 and 1851.
4. **Church Farm Barn.** Built about 1830, a 'barn hall'.
5. **Village Hall.** Initiated by the Parish Council. Foundation stone laid by T.S. Bradford in 1960, donor of £1000. Funds were raised by many village functions. A 1939-1945 war memorial.
6. **Bell Inn & Laurel Cottage.** Built as a barn with two pairs of large doors in late C16. Became one dwelling in C17 and subsequently separated into two.
7. **Selden End.** In the C19 it was taken over by Martock overseers to house the very poor for a period.
8. **P.O. Stores.** These were opened in 1961. A thatcher lived here in 1840.
9. **The Green.** It was a triangle of grass at the junction of Martock Lane with Main Street.
10. **Compton Villas.** (In Martock Lane) Three dwellings in one building erected about 1900.
11. **Highlands Farm.** Once separated into two dwellings as seen by the filled-in doorway.
12. **Highlands House.** Originally built in C18 but substantially rebuilt in Victorian times.
13. **Nos. 29-37 Main Street.** Probably Victorian cottages.
14. **'Hillside' Nos. 24-38.** Row of 8 Council houses built by the Rural District Council in 1927.
15. **Sunnyside Farm.** Built by Frank Weeks, a mason turned farmer. Three terrace cottages stood on this site.
16. **Ash House.** Main structure built early C18. Extended in early C19 and again in C20.
17. **Boundary wall of Ash House.** Notice the two different lengths of building stone. The lower end marks the site of a cottage recorded in 1840.
18. **Oak Tree Cottage.** Built before 1810. For a long time divided into two, as were other cottages.
19. **Nos. 42 to 52.** Bungalows for the elderly. Date 1967.
20. **Reveton.** Date stone on south side of chimney stack 1878. Post Office once sited in the left hand room, with public telephone and groceries.





21. **Nos. 54 to 62.** Bungalows for the elderly. Date 1982.
 22. **Nos. 66 to 80.** Council houses built in 1958.
 23. **No. 53.** Site of the blacksmith's forge. The smith, Mr. Hewlett, lived in Back Street.
 24. **Nos. 59 to 67.** Cottages called Bush's Row, built by Henry Bush who lived at No. 69.
 25. **Well.** Most of the old cottages had their own wells, as seen at No. 69 in the front garden.
 26. **Hillfoot** Probably C17 cottage.
 27. **Stone Farm.** C17 farmhouse.
 28. **E. & W. corners of Burrough St.** Site of Crosspools, once the horse pond for local farms, haunt of moorhens.
 29. **Burrough Street.** Modern estate built in 1971 by Mr. R. Loder. Old farm buildings & cottages were demolished.
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30. **Four Oak trees.** Subjects of a tree preservation order in 1969.
 31. **Ash Farmhouse.** Early C18 building.
 32. **Three Cottages.** Formed a yeoman's house in C17
 33. **Manor Farm.** C17 farmhouse, latterly extended. Probable site of Ashepyke manor house. Note name of J. Penny carved in a stone, a farmer living here in early C19.
 34. **The Grange.** (Ball's Grange) C17 farmhouse. The Balls lived here in C18 and early C19. The garden with lawn was on the opposite side where two houses now stand.
 35. **Boleyn House.** Probable site of Ash Boulogne, one of the two manorial houses in Ash. A C17 building, part updated in C18. All such buildings were thatched when first built.
 36. **Mulberry Tree Farmhouse.** Probably C17.
 37. **Hopside Lane.** The second field on the right was named Hobs Hay, so the name Hopside.
 38. **Moirs Cottage.** Date stone below chimney stack:- J.E.R. 1858, possibly initials of Joseph Rodford, village builder.
 39. **Britannia House.** The Britannia Inn was demolished in Yeovil and rebuilt here by Mr. A. England with assistance from the England family.
 40. **Plum Tree Farmhouse.** Late C17.
 41. **The Old Farm.** This was a farm without any living accommodation in early C19.
 42. **Wellingtonia Tree.** Has a preservation order. A mammoth tree, native of California.
 43. **Aldis Cottage.** Only one cottage remaining of a group of three, built before 1810.
 44. **Church Farmhouse.** C18 dwelling, once divided into three in C19 when there was much overcrowding. The lean-to shed was the workshop of Mr. John Palmer Rodford, village carpenter & builder.

CENSUS RECORDS FOR ASH PARISH

1841	505	1911	390
1851	580	1921	418
1861	543	1931	389
1871	512	1940	373
1881	473	1961	395
1891	457	1971	417
1901	359	1981	539

Usually resident in 1981:

Males 281 Females 258

Usually resident in 1881:

Males 210 Females 263



LIST OF EXHIBITS

1. A late Victorian farm kitchen/-
living room.
2. Gloving in the district.
3. A parish record 1895 - 1985.
4. Farm buildings project by
Ash W.I.
5. Ash W.I. stand.
6. Historical survey of domestic
buildings.
7. Ash Primary school stand.
8. Enclosure map of 1810.
9. Field names, past & present.
10. Aerial photo of Ash c. 1970.
11. Population & occupations
of 1881.
12. A village carpenter -
J.P. Rodford.
13. Village builder - F.J.T. England.
14. The Lemon File - Ash to Canada.
15. Holy Trinity Church, Ash.
16. Our Heritage.
17. The Parish Map of 1895
18. Village wedding photos.
19. Village Life, as it happened
in photos.
20. Recent Years' events in photos.
21. Old documents.
22. Artefacts.
23. Old Farm Hand Tools.

SUMMARY OF PARISH RECORDS 1895 - 1985



- 1895 First meeting of the parish convened on August 29th.
First councillors elected by poll on September 14th.
First parish council meeting on September 25th.
- 1896 Parish Council approached G.P.O. and secured agreement for a post office in Ash.
- 1898 Wall pillar boxes installed at Milton & Witcombe.
- 1899 Land for allotments leased. Lots drawn for 17 plots. Mr. T.S. Bradford of 'Highlands' appointed Chairman of the Council.
Quarterly meetings approved.
- 1911 Drain laid down Main Street to connect with drain at lower end.
- 1913 18 nominations for councillors. 87 persons voted for five councillors.
- 1914 Roll of Honour drawn up of those serving in H.M. Forces.
- 1927 Council houses built and allocated in Main Street. Rent not more than 8 shillings per week. A telephone call office considered - referred to as a 'silence cabinet'.
- 1934 Mains water supply laid in the village.
- 1937 Electricity supply connected.
- 1938 All allotments vacated.
- 1945 Mr. T.S. Bradford resigns as chairman after 46 years in that position.
- 1948 Four Airey type houses erected in Witcombe Lane.
- 1946 Telephone kiosk approved.
- 1951 Telephone kiosk erected in Milton.
- 1952 New burial ground - tender accepted.
- 1952 Village Hall - draft plan approved.
- 1954 Street lighting approved.
Village Hall Trust deed made. Management committee formed.
- 1956 Speed limit signs requested for the village.
- 1957 Boundary changes. Two fields added to Ash from Martock.
- 1958 Palmers Close council houses built.
- 1960 Village Hall's foundation stone laid by Mr. T.S. Bradford.
- 1967 Sewage scheme in progress.
Bungalows for the elderly erected in Palmers Close.
- 1972 Recreation field added to the amenities
- 1974 Tree Planting Year. Trees planted in the Rec.
- 1976 Elm tree disease rampant.
- 1980 The Pavilion opened on August 3rd.
The main car park brought into use.
- 1982 Further bungalows erected for the elderly in Palmers Close.

Great appreciation is expressed to those who have lent exhibits and all those who help to run the exhibition over three days.

