



**Ashurst St James  
Parish E-Newsletter  
Autumn 2025**



# Father Mark

## writes

*'So here it is merry Christmas, everybody's having fun ...'*

Even if you are not a devotee of the 70s rock group, Slade, you are probably familiar with these words and the music that goes with them. The 'glam rock' approach to Christmas works when we feel optimistic and light hearted, as we can when we look back to childhood Christmas-times with a fond nostalgia. What it doesn't help us with is a deeper search for meaning, something that becomes more elusive when our spirits are low or if we feel lonely or depressed.

I have never been able to find a button I can press that makes me happy. True joy can be elusive but, when we find it, it comes from something more profound, although it can be found there amongst the pop music, tinsel and wrapping paper. It's called 'love', of course, but in our human weakness, our experience of human love can let us down; sometimes it can even leave us feeling sad or angry.



It's for this reason that the Advent season leading up to the birthday of Jesus is given as a time to reflect on our human weakness, a weakness that often leads us to reject love, or in other words to reject God. *He came to his own home, and his own people received him not* (John 1:11). But Christians mustn't be possessive about Christmas, since anyone who knows their need of love has the potential to enter into that deeper joy. Such joy comes from knowing that love is more about

### Church of England - Christmas Intercessions

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,  
give courage to all who are homeless;  
in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fled into Egypt,  
give comfort to all refugees;  
in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fasted in the desert,  
give relief to all who are starving;  
in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross,  
give strength to all who suffer;  
in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church  
**hear our prayer,**  
**and make us one in heart and mind**  
**to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

giving than receiving, and that true love – as revealed in the manger at Bethlehem and the man Jesus would grow to become – has the potential to renew everything, even us (see 1 John 4:10-19).

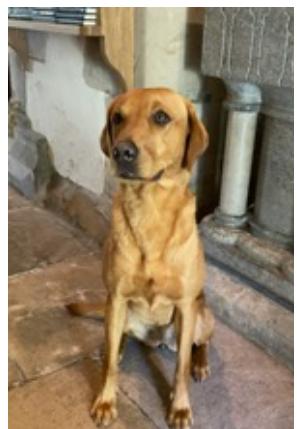
With best wishes for a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas for you and yours.

Yours in the love of Christ

*Fr Mark*

Holy Jesus,  
by being born one of us,  
and lying humbly in a manger,  
you show how much God loves the world.  
Let the light of your love always shine in our  
hearts,  
until we reach our home in heaven,  
and see you on your throne of glory.  
Amen.

## Recent Events



We hold our Pet Service at St James's every two years. This July we had an interesting turnout of pets. They included some very fine dogs, a selection of who kindly posed for the camera. We also had a fish and a chicken, who decided she couldn't wait and laid an egg during the service!



Our Harvest Service, held this October, saw St James's richly decorated with an abundance of Autumnal fruit and flowers by our wonderful Flower ladies. The children from Ashurst School provided a colourful and interesting montage using the letters in "HARVEST".



Our November Remembrance Sunday continues to be a well-attended and moving service. This year it was presided over by Father Mark.





## Forthcoming Events



We have a number of services and events coming up and we would love to see you there:



### **Advent Service.**

Our Family service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 'Lighting the Candles of Advent' - a service with Advent carols for all the family, marks the beginning of our Christmas celebrations.



### **Village Carol Service.**

We are holding our annual traditional 9 Readings and Carols, followed by mince pies and mulled wine, on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm. Please do come and join us at this special event

If you are interested in doing one of the readings, or perhaps singing in the choir, please contact me on [susie.fischel@outlook.com](mailto:susie.fischel@outlook.com)



### **25<sup>th</sup> December – Family Christmas Eucharist.**

We then hope to see you at our Christmas Day Family Eucharist Service at 10.30. A period of calm during the buzz and excitement of the Festive period.



## **Vanessa**

Crissy, Katie and I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, support and condolences following the untimely and unexpected death of Vanessa. We were very comforted by all the kind words and thoughtful gestures from so many of the good folk of Ashurst.

Vanessa absolutely loved the village since arriving in 2006, which was evident in all she did and the many events in which she involved herself.

She was the person to whom villagers would often turn when something needed to be done, and her enthusiasm and ever present smile will long remain in the memory of all those Ashurst residents who came into contact with her.

We are so very blessed to live in such an amazing village and it was a great testament to Vanessa to see so many of her local friends at the Celebration of her life service on 24th September at St. James's church, Ashurst.

Graham



# Churchyard Notes

# Autumn 2025

As the flowering of the colourful late summer plant, knapweed, was drawing to its close around the end of August, we began the end-summer/autumn clear-up of the long grass and other vegetation to prepare the Churchyard for winter and lay the groundwork for next year's wild flowers.

This is by far the most physically demanding of the year's tasks, involving a combination of mowing, brushcutting, raking, chopping - basically anything to get the vegetation levelled down and the clippings/cuttings cleared away. The latter is the most vital so the wildflowers are not out-competed by grass that is too rich or smothered by over-long vegetation.

The task was completed in stages to avoid too sudden and drastic a transformation for nature's inhabitants and visitors such as birds, bees, butterflies, small mammals and invertebrates.

It won't be long before the snowdrops are appearing and the whole cycle starts again, in fact whether for us or for other flora and fauna, the down-time period seems to be getting shorter and shorter. A photo is attached of what I think of as Snowdrop Corner at the North East corner of the Churchyard where we usually see a strong showing.

The Churchyard had its share of this year's bumper crop of berries (see the Nature Notes) and at the moment has a very noisy Song Thrush in residence, they seem to have had a good breeding season. I encourage Ashurst residents to visit the Churchyard, you are all welcome. The Churchyard is a great place for peaceful reflection and observing nature as a counterbalance to hectic modern lives.

David Fischel November 2025





# Ashurst Parish Council Autumn 2025



## Annual Parish Meeting

We had a good turnout at our Annual Meeting, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, where draft plans for the new sports building for the Recreation Ground were presented and discussed.

We also reported on our plans to improve the village's already rich eco diversity. As a follow up, please see the articles on the next page.

## Proposed New Sports Building on the Recreation Ground

Following on from the Annual meeting, and as part of our continuing consultation process, we asked for Residents to complete a questionnaire, giving their input on the proposed new sports building on the Recreation Ground. Thank you to all those who completed the questionnaire. We had 22 responses and your input has been most useful.

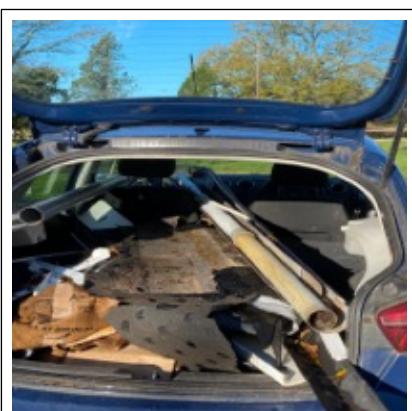
Currently, our consultations are continuing with key stakeholders. In addition, if any users of the Recreation Ground, Ashurst Residents or not, would like to discuss their views further with some of the councillors, on the afternoon of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, please e-mail our Clerk, Oliver Last at: [ashurstclerk@outlook.com](mailto:ashurstclerk@outlook.com), to request a half an hour slot.

Once the consultation process has been completed, which should be early in the New Year, we will report back to you.

## Traffic Calming Measures

A couple of years ago, we did a consultation on speed limits coming south out of Partridge Green and also on a proposed introduction of a 40mph limit for a short stretch on the B2135, north of Ashurst Village, to match what we had in place south of the village.

As you will be aware, Partridge Green implemented its proposed changes, but the conditions for a 40mph extension north of Ashurst have changed, with a new minimum distance for a 40mph limit being extended to 600 meters. The results last time round were inconclusive so we propose doing a further consultation in the near future in order to gauge Ashurst residents' current opinion on a possible extended TRO.



## Recent Fly-tipping around Ashurst

As many of you will have noticed, there has been a recent spate of fly-tipping in and around Ashurst. The picture on the left shows rubbish collected from Spithandle Lane which has been dumped in the last few days.

If you notice rubbish, please do report it on the Horsham District Council Website at <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/fly-tipping/fly-tipping> as the more the Council is made aware of this problem the better.

## Keeping in touch

From time to time, the Council would like to be able to contact you to keep you informed of relevant communications. If this is of interest to you, then please e-mail our Clerk, Oliver Last, [ashurstclerk@outlook.com](mailto:ashurstclerk@outlook.com) explaining that you would like him to keep your contact details for this purpose. If at any stage you change your mind about this information being held by the Clerk, you can ask him to have your details deleted.

**Please remember- we are here to represent you, so don't hesitate to contact us if you think we can help in some way. Contact e-mail: [ashurstclerk@outlook.com](mailto:ashurstclerk@outlook.com)**

## Volunteers needed to check Ashurst's ponds



Now that winter has arrived it's the perfect time to check that all the beautiful ponds in Ashurst are still thriving.

Ponds are very important because they are crucial habitats for freshwater wildlife, supporting a high level of biodiversity and many threatened species. They provide essential resources like water, food, and breeding sites for a wide variety of animals and plants, functioning as vital "stepping stones" for species to move across the landscape.

Sussex Wildlife Trust has mapped all the ponds in the village as part of its county wide inventory. We now need your help to update this mapping by recording the current state of our ponds.

If you would like to receive a copy of the map so that you can check that ponds near your home, or close to your favourite walk, are still in existence please email [cllrknight@outlook.com](mailto:cllrknight@outlook.com).

## Adur Adaptation Project – Working Together for Resilient Rivers



Tara Dawson (Adur Catchment Officer) at the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust ([www.oart.org.uk](http://www.oart.org.uk)) gave a presentation at the November Ashurst Parish Council meeting on the Adur Adaptation Project, an Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council funded initiative, which takes a whole landscape approach to improving the condition and function of the River Adur.

The 10-year project launched in 2023 with an aim of achieving a 10% reduction in peak flows in the River Adur during periods of heavy rainfall, in order to help protect local communities from the risk of flooding. The

**Inspiring & Leading Action for Healthy Rivers**

**ADUR adaptation**

**Adur Adaptation Project**

Working Together for Resilient Rivers



The Adur Adaptation Project is leading the way in working with landowners and communities, reducing climate vulnerability to our rivers and streams whilst creating a network of habitat to support a higher level of biodiversity.

We can provide **advice to landowners and communities** on the most appropriate enhancements to ensure wider benefits and assist with funding through a range of mechanisms including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

There are many ways to get involved in the project, and we are always interested in hearing from those who want to support our work.

**Free Landowner Advice**  
If you own land in the River Adur catchment we can provide advice, fund projects which improve habitats and, where appropriate undertake baseline surveys for Biodiversity Net Gain and assist with Stewardship options.

**Volunteer on Practical Activities**  
Many of our projects are suitable for volunteers of all ages and abilities. Connecting with nature is hugely rewarding.

**Impart Some Wisdom**  
No one knows the river like those who live there. We are keen to learn more from the experiences of those who live, work or play in the catchment.

**Learn More**  
We are always delighted to attend events, provide talks and raise awareness of our work. If your community or organisation would like to find out more about the work of the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust please contact us.

Contact our Catchment Officer, Tara, for more information and to request a visit  
[Tara.Dawson@oart.org.uk](mailto:Tara.Dawson@oart.org.uk)

 [www.oart.org.uk](http://www.oart.org.uk)

 Registered charity 1082447

project also aims to increase drought resilience, improve water quality, enhance the river and floodplain environment, and improve its resilience to climate change through natural flood management initiatives such as leaky dams, tree and hedgerow planting and the creation of scrapes, ponds and wetlands.

If you own land in the River Adur catchment, OART can offer free advice and fund projects which meet their aims. They are also looking for volunteers to help on practical activities. If you would like to find out more, please contact [tara.dawson@oart.org.uk](mailto:tara.dawson@oart.org.uk).

## Ashurst Cricket Club 2025

The cricket club has continued to be active and, with plenty of enthusiasm around, we assembled teams without much difficulty with Ashurst residents making up most of the players and the balance having a strong Ashurst connection.

We played three games this year, one in each of June, July and August.

A late batting collapse led to us losing by an agonisingly narrow 2 runs in the first game against a team raised by Mark Fischel.



The second game v Nuthurst was also a close and exciting encounter where we ended up losing by a slender 2 wicket margin, before encountering a strong side, Preston Park, Brighton, who beat us by 60 runs in the third game despite a splendid 53 from Patrick Hayward.

Our fourth game in September v Bury/ Westburton was sadly rained off.



Many thanks to Rowley Gregg (and family) for team raising, captaining and catering including one splendid BBQ tea; also to Mark Fischel for organising the fixtures. Thanks also to all the players, spectators and the many willing tea helpers.

We look forward to further enjoyable village cricketing occasions in 2026.

We are fortunate to be able to play in such a fine rural setting with great South Downs views. Opposing teams are always complimentary about their visits to Ashurst.

We are always on the lookout for new players, so if you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact either Rowley Gregg (07850 051850) or me (07710 582843).  
David Fischel Chairman Ashurst CC.

**Ashurst Football Club** As we approach the Christmas period it's safe to say it hasn't been an easy season so far for Ashurst United. After a fantastic last minute win against Rudgwick at the start of the season, results haven't gone our way. We've been hit with the biggest injury list the club has ever known. With some key players being sidelined for a while. November saw us get an important 3-1 win over the Crusaders in the league and a cup win against a side from Hastings. Ashurst United are currently 9th in the league and we will need to roll our sleeves up again in the second half of the season to turn things around.

Some positive signs though as our new young 18 year old keeper continues to impress. The attack has been boosted by the signing of an ex county veteran striker and ex West Sussex Prem attacking midfielder. January may also bring some vital club players back from injury. Come on you Ashurst!!

## Message from our Ashurst Tree Warden, Pernille Harari

This past summer being one of the hottest on record, it became noticeable by mid-summer, that some of the trees, especially the 2 large Cypresses overlooking Church Lane were not looking as healthy as in the past (probably due to lack of water).

These are Lawson Cypress, Britain's most popular garden conifers. Apparently, they indirectly owe their presence in this country to the mysterious disappearance of the Scottish botanist, John Jeffrey, who vanished without a trace on a collecting expedition in Oregon at the beginning of 1854. During the fruitless search, one of the party, one of his colleagues, John Murray, came across this cypress and sent the first seed consignment to an Edinburgh seed firm, Messrs Lawson & Sons nursery, from which the species took its name.

This tree was soon planted in many gardens and churchyards and before long cultivars were selected and this process has continued with over a 100 different types available today from nurseries.

# Ashurst Village Hall

**Autumn 2025**

The Hall Committee's primary role is to ensure the hall is maintained in good order and in accordance with the various regulations pertaining to Public Use Buildings.

These regulations including, Emergency Lighting checks, Fire Extinguisher Maintenance, Monitoring to ensure no Legionella is present in the water system etc, etc, all incur costs which is why the Committee are always grateful for bookings by or following suggestions from, village people.

We continue to pursue improvements to the hall and its facilities.

## *Superstrings*

**Live  
At  
Ashurst Village Hall**

**Saturday 8th November  
7:30pm**



At the suggestion of David Taylor (Treasurer), and Sandra (Booking Officer), we have purchased a Bluetooth enabled portable speaker. This will be available for hall hirers to use so they can play music from their devices at parties etc without recourse to the hall's integral sound system. This saves much time when briefing hirers and ensures no damage can occur to the AV system.

On 8 Nov the committee organised a musical evening featuring the excellent Sussex based trio, Superstrings. The local people who attended as well as visitors from Horsham, Chichester and the wider area all really enjoyed the evening, and agreed we should book them again in the future, when we'd love to see more Ashurst residents. A repeat evening will certainly be arranged.

Finally the hall is gearing up to host this year's Panto (Oh yes it is). I hope to see many of you there on 4, 5, 6, December.

Graham Timms Chairman.  
07966 518207 or [thetimmsare@btinternet.com](mailto:thetimmsare@btinternet.com)

The curtain's up--and Ashurst is back on stage,  
Oh yes it is! Join us at the Village Hall for this year's  
unmissable pantomime,

**MAKE ASHURST GREAT AGAIN!**

There will be a cash and credit bar.

Hello Ashurst

This year's Panto starts this Thursday 4 December with reduced price tickets for the Full Dress Rehearsal. There are also still a limited number of tickets available for Friday and Saturday 5 and 6 December.

This year's performance promises to raise the already high bar of great entertainment to an even greater elevation.

To purchase your tickets go to:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/ashurst-village-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ashurst-village-hall)

We look forward to seeing you,  
Helen and all the Company

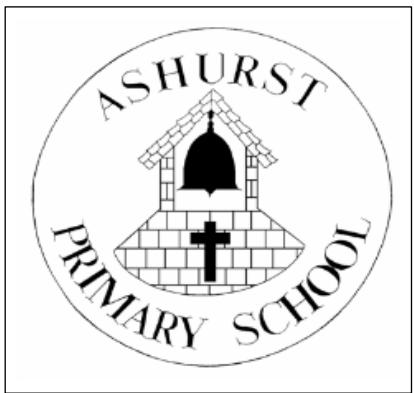
**Ashurst Village  
Pantomime 2025  
presents...**



Dress Rehearsal  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm  
TICKETS £8  
Performances  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm  
TICKETS £12

For hall bookings please visit the website: <https://www.ashurstvillagehall.org.uk/>.  
There are special rates for local hirers.

We are all pleased to be back in school for the autumn term and, as part of our commitment to church and community, we have enjoyed taking part in different services at St James's, including our 'New Beginnings Service', Family services, Harvest and Remembrance. Those members of the community and families who attended our school Remembrance Service were very moved, commenting that the poems written by children in Y5&Y6 and the beautiful performance by our Dance and Drama club was '*a powerful illustration of families being separated by evacuation*' and that it was '*Superb!*'. Thank you to Mr Timms who kindly played the very emotional and evocative 'The Last Post' for us.



We are looking forward to celebrating our first 'Spirituality Day' on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. In the morning, in school, we will be exploring different ways we can develop and express our spirituality based on Isaiah 9:6 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given". In the afternoon we will continue this theme into our Advent service at St James' Church at 2.45 and you are most welcome to join us.



One of our former pupils, Claire Eaton, came to visit us and talked to the children in different groups about her role as a response police officer, the children were very keen to try on her hat, handcuffs and stab vest. The younger children had some very interesting ideas about what she might carry with her!



Claire also spoke, age appropriately, about her current role in the Serious and Organised Crime Department and included some very good advice about how to stay safe whilst using mobile phones and the internet. Coming from a serving police officer this was an excellent reinforcement of what we teach the children in school.

Other activities we have been busy with include our ever-popular school trips to enhance our curriculum learning. So far this term we have visited The Wings Museum, Ford Recycling Centre and Daylands Farm. Mr Crush, as always, gave Squirrel class a very interesting and informative tour of his ancient woodlands - we are so lucky to have such knowledgeable people in our community who are happy to share their experiences!





Our Gardening Club have had bumper crops of apples, squashes and tomatoes from Bumbles Garden and we were very pleased to take over twenty apple cakes and apple crumbles (with custard too!) to the Wholesome Warehouse. We plan another trip there shortly to deliver the very kind donations made by parents and staff on Children in Need Day. Healing Balm, Lemon and Squash cake and green tomato chutney made with Garden Club produce will be on sale at the Christmas Bazaar.

This term we also introduced the first of our Wellbeing Days, staff and children alike chose the types of activities they would like to do to support their wellbeing, and this included art, exercise, creative writing and bookmaking, and music. We would like to thank all staff, Ms Gobat Krish and Mr Smith for sharing their expertise and making the day such a success. Children reported very positively on their experiences and have suggested a variety of activities for next term.

Following the installation of our Air Source Heat Pumps over the summer, we are all warm and are delighted to no longer need to burn fossil fuels to heat our school. The children have been very interested in the pumps, and we invited Brian Kilkelly, the Net Zero officer from the Diocese, to come and meet with our YAGs, Worship Warriors and Y5&Y6 to discuss other ways we can contribute to our school becoming more carbon neutral. We have also been consulting with Brian as we would like to investigate working towards an Eco Award for our school.

Over the last few weeks, the children have been very helpful during our recent classroom swaps and playground reorganisation. This was necessary to support our plans for a safe, designated outside learning area for our younger children. Now we just need to remember which storage shed to go to so we can retrieve our wellies ready for play time on the field!



We are delighted that our Worship Warriors are growing not only in numbers (there is a group waiting in the wings ready to join next year too!) but in responsibility. They all attended an online webinar to learn how they could be involved in our 'Picture News Collective Worship'. Following this, they have now taken over and lead this weekly part of our collective worship.

I am very proud of them, it is wonderful to see how they organise, delegate and invite involvement from the rest of the school through questioning and mini quizzes at the end to see who has been listening!

As we draw towards the end of term, we are looking forward to joining with members of the community to create Christingles on 2.12.25 and are busy planning and preparing for our Mouse class Nativity, the KS2 Christmas Carols and Lessons performances and our Christmas Card competition, the winning designs will, as usual, be printed and sent to ladies and gentlemen in local residential care homes. Y5&Y6 are busy planning for our Christmas Bazaar, the proceeds of which will be shared with this year's three charities; The Wholesome Warehouse, Chestnut Tree House and The Etches Collection.

We hope to see you soon at some of our Christmas events, if you would like more information, please do call the office and we will be happy to answer any questions.

We would like to wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas - see you in 2026!

Kindest regards,

Mrs Smith and all at Ashurst CE Aided Primary School.

# The Friends of Ashurst Primary School Autumn 2025



It has been a brilliant start to the new school term with our FAPS fundraising off to a flying start. Owl Class kicked things off with the first of three inter-class Bake Offs, serving up a dazzling array of cakes and raising a fantastic £115. The heat is on with Squirrel Class already plotting their showstopping bakes for Round Two next term...

Children in Need day was enthusiastically celebrated with all the children bringing in donations to support one of our brilliant charities chosen by the children this year: The Wholesome Warehouse.

## Ashurst Flix in the Stix Autumn 2025

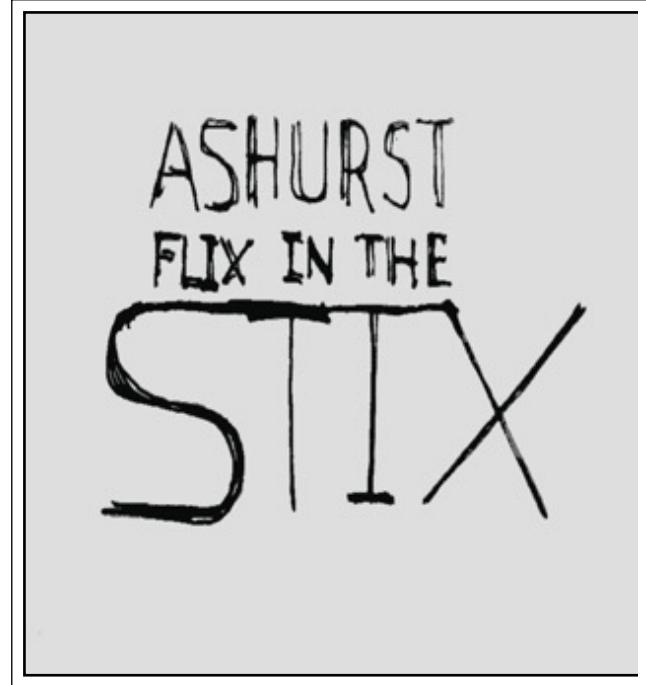
Ashurst Flix in the Stix held a Gala Red Carpet presentation on 1st November 2025 in honour of our late Vanessa and in support of her favourite charity - the NSPCC.

The high attendance for "The Hunt for Red October", as well as a generously contributed-to collection bucket and some Flix charity funds enabled us to raise £962.64, delivered to their AGM, at Arundel Castle a few days later.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30, our next film presentation, as promised, is "The Penguin Lessons" a dramedy starring Oscar nominee Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce based on a true story. It follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

The story is simple: Some friends come into our lives for just a season but leave a lasting impact. The movie has emotion, drama, comedy, and a penguin.

Thank you Bob Harari ([bob@flixinthestix.com](mailto:bob@flixinthestix.com))



Patrick, Steven, Jo & Andrew are running Brighton Marathon to raise £5,000 for Air Time CIC — enough to cover our core costs for the next two years.

With your support, we can focus on what matters most: delivering free, nature-based wellbeing projects that boost mental health, strengthen community, and care for the planet.

Help us go the distance — every donation brings us closer to our goal!

BRIGHTON MARATHON 2026

**Air Time CIC** - Based in Ashurst, we are a not-for-profit organisation that connects people to nature for wellbeing. For further information about Air Time and its current projects see [www.air-time.org.uk](http://www.air-time.org.uk).

We'd like to say a **massive thank you** to all the local Co-op members that chose to support us through the Co-op Local Community Fund this year. As a result, we've been awarded **£1,995** to run nature-based wellbeing sessions for local teenagers! Watch this space for information about sessions in Henfield and Steyning.

All our projects are grant-funded, so we can offer free opportunities to people and communities that wouldn't otherwise be able to take part. But this means it can be challenging to cover overheads — which is why Ashurst residents, Jo, Patrick and Steven are taking on the challenge to run the **2026 Brighton Marathon**! They are hoping to raise **£5,000**, enough to cover Air Time's running costs for 2 years. Any support, no matter how small, would be **HUGELY** appreciated.

# Ashurst Country Fair & Fun Dog Show and Car Boot Sale 2025

It seems like a long time ago that we were enjoying the **Ashurst Country Fair, Fun Dog Show & Car Boot Sale**, this year held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It really wouldn't be possible without help from all the wonderful people in the village who come together to make the show such a success each year.... and what a brilliant show it was!

Cars poured onto Ashurst Recreation Ground to attend. There were a range of stalls including craft stalls, dog equipment, pet food, produce, bottles, books, tombola and information stalls - including the Mid Sussex Beekeepers, a raffle with wonderful prizes and even a human fruit machine! The Car Boot Sale had items old, curious and new for sale and was well worth a bargain hunting look round. The Teas, Bar and Barbeque all did a brisk trade too. Music and commentary were supplied by Wayne Byrne and colleague, with Colin Eaton providing a most entertaining commentary. Colin chatted to every dog owner as the show went on, giving us an insight into each dog's fascinating story. Entertainment during the break was provided by Graham Simmons who sang a great medley of songs, many of the audience sang along too.



Eric (Cantona) the tallest dog at the show, cleaned up with prizes winning his first class 'Best Large Dog', he then went on to win the Championship! The Burstow family's other pet dog George won a special rosette and the funniest class in the show 'Dog in the Best Hat'. "We came home on cloud 9," said Phil Burstow. "It has to be the friendliest show that we have been to, everyone was so nice and friendly so we can't wait for next year's event".

Judging was carried out by Amina, Lauren and Nicky from Hawthorns Vets of Partridge Green and Henfield. What a difficult job it was with so many lovely dogs taking part. One of the highlights of the show was the 'Dog in the Best Hat' Competition run by Amelie Gutsell, it provided much fun and laughter. The adult class was won by George (Best), friend of Eric (Cantona) Champion Dog of the Show, with the children's class winner Teddy with his lovely dog Phyllis.



The Agility class was also a source of much amusement. Organised by Tim Chavasse, the course proved to be fun but challenging, with all sorts of dogs taking part throughout the afternoon and a leader-board providing a sporting bit of competition for those who took part.

Steyning Fire Brigade kindly came along with their fire engine which was a big hit with adults and children alike. Ashurst United Football Club also helped entertain the children with great football goal challenges. Paul Jesse's Welly Wanging game and Splat the Rat also provided some fun throughout the afternoon.



The organising team would like to say a **very big thank you** to everyone who supported us, especially our very generous sponsors. The show raised around £4500 which helps maintain and improve our lovely Village Hall. A gallery of photographs and more information about the show can be found on the Ashurst Country Fair 2025 website: <https://sites.google.com/view/ashurstcountryfair>

We are all looking forward to next year's event already!

Over the recent years Vanessa has been President of Ashurst WI and with her welcoming smile and gentle guidance she was passionate that the WI in Ashurst should thrive. Numbers have grown during this time and the WI in Ashurst is going from strength to strength and so much of its continuing success has been down to Vanessa in her role as President. It was therefore with huge sadness that the Members learnt that Vanessa had unexpectedly and very suddenly passed away. Vanessa played an enormous part in her life with Graham in Ashurst and she will be remembered with great love and gratitude for everything that she did in our lovely Village, and particularly in helping to enable the WI to grow and flourish here.

Following Vanessa's death, the Committee of Ashurst WI had to regroup and it is continuing following many successful years with Vanessa as President. There will be two Open Meetings in January and February, Monday 12th January & Monday February 9th 2.00pm - 4.00pm when our first meeting of the year will be with a member of Partridge Green Responders giving crucial information and demonstrations in how to give emergency life saving assistance and in February Shirley Blanch will be helping us to Get Mindful and she will be talking about Easy Mindful Techniques.

Please do join us and see what Ashurst WI is all about, bring your friends, husbands, partners and join us for our two Open Meetings at the beginning of 2026. There is a small charge for visitors of £3 and you can be assured of a very warm welcome and you will also be able to enjoy a cup of tea and some delicious WI cooked cake! We will look forward to seeing you.



## **Ashurst Flower Show**

## **Autumn 2025**

Despite the inclement weather in 2025, with seeds refusing to germinate and potatoes being burnt by the frost, the gardeners of Ashurst put on a wonderful show of produce, flowers, fruit and vegetables. There were some stunning onions, which the Chair has yet to master - one day. The winner of the vegetables and the fruit created an exquisite selection of produce and was truly deserving of his first prize. Indeed, the rest of the village is going to have to work extremely hard to beat him next year.

We also had a first time entrant winning the Roses as well, and the winner still attests that he was "lucky". There must be something he is doing right. The culinary art, the photography and the children's sections were very well supported and there were some wonderful entries. Thank you to all the competitors for all your hard work in 2025.

There is plenty of time to prepare for next year's Show on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026, and we will be circulating the classes in February 2026, so you will have plenty of time to prepare your entries and practice your culinary art on your families.

I would like to recognise all the hard work of the organising committee operating behind the scenes to make it such a success this year. We are always looking for "new blood", so if you are interested, please contact me.

Thank you. Mark Garnett, Chair of the Ashurst Flower Show.



Rose in full bloom - November 13<sup>th</sup> 2025



## Weather Facts

Nature watchers will be only too aware that, climatically, we are approaching the end of another record-breaking year. Spring 2025 was the driest in England for over a century with UK rainfall 40 per cent below average. Summer 2025 was the warmest on record and rainfall in England was 79 per cent of the long-term average. September and October did thankfully see more normalised rainfall, and, if you want cheering up, October was notable for its "anti-cyclonic gloom", the UK's third dullest October on record with only 69 per cent of average sunshine.

## Flora especially berries

Whether as a consequence of the above or not, the flowering season seems to have extended abnormally late into October and even November and we seem to have had a bumper year for wild berries – sloes, haws, hips, holly, ivy to name but a few (photos attached, all from Ashurst locations). And the mighty oaks which dominate the Ashurst tree scene have cast off acorns in extraordinary quantities.

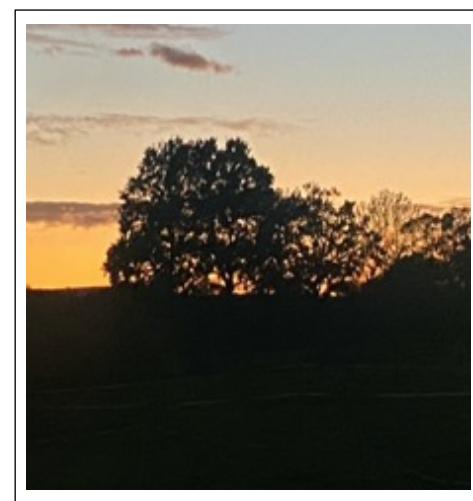
## Birds

Some interesting birds around Ashurst this Autumn - notably linnets on the wild flower mix and fieldfares arriving as a few cold nights kicked in. Geese, enjoying our River Adur setting and crossing the village East/West and back, have provided a noisy and magnificent spectacle - mostly Canada Geese but also some greylags, the sharp-eyed may also have noted the occasional Egyptian goose.

## River Adur

The Adur is a fundamental part of the Ashurst nature-scape and well worth exploring as it changes across the seasons. Encouragingly, the river now seems to be getting a higher profile with the bio-diversity fraternity and with policymakers, having been rather neglected hitherto in PR terms relative to other more high-profile West Sussex rivers like the Arun.

26 November 2025



## Forthcoming Village Dates

|  |               |   |                 |
|--|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Ashurst Pantomime  | Village Hall  | Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> , Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> November | 7.30 pm         |
| Flix in the Stix   | Village Hall  | Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December  | 7.30 pm         |
| <b>Family Service</b><br><b>'Lighting the candles of Advent'</b> | <b>Church</b> | <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | <b>10.30 pm</b> |
| <b>Village Carol Service</b>                                     | <b>Church</b> | <b>Sunday 21st December</b>   | <b>4.00 pm</b>  |
| Informal Carols  | The Fountain  | Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December   | 5.00 pm         |
| <b>Christmas Day Service</b>                                     | <b>Church</b> | <b>Thursday 25th December</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b> |
| <b>2026</b>  |               |   |                 |
| Parish Council Meeting   | Village Hall  | Thursday 8th January TBC  | 7.30 pm         |
| <b>Family Service</b><br><b>'Epiphanytide'</b>                   | <b>Church</b> | <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b> |
| <b>Eucharist</b>   | <b>Church</b> | <b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b> |
| <b>Family service</b><br><b>'From Candlemas to Lent'</b>         | <b>Church</b> | <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b> |
| <b>Family Service</b><br><b>'Mothering Sunday'</b>               | <b>Church</b> | <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | <b>10.30 am</b> |



### E-mail of Newsletter

If you would like to go onto a direct Newsletter e-mail distribution list then please do let me know by e-mailing me at [susie.fischel@outlook.com](mailto:susie.fischel@outlook.com)



### Deadline for the Spring 2026 Newsletter

Please note that the deadline for the next Parish Newsletter is **Friday 27th February 2026**.

Please send items for inclusion either as an e-mail or as a Word attachment to [susie.fischel@outlook.com](mailto:susie.fischel@outlook.com). All contributions particularly of photos are most welcome.

Many thanks for all the contributions to this Newsletter – they are much appreciated.

