

# Ash Heritage Group



Committee's report on the year 2022-2023 to members attending the AGM on Thursday 9th November 2023

## Officers and Members of your committee in 2023 were :

Nina Vallack, Cressida Williams, Meg Bennetts (Interim Treasurer), Kathy Mills, Alison Charles, Kimberley Feeley, Veronica O'Brien, David Shephard and Robert Hudson (Interim Chairman and Secretary)

Our website has now been in operation for one year. Feedback from users has been very positive, not least because it allows visitors to search our catalogue remotely and makes a visit to the Archive on a Saturday morning much more efficient.



In addition to the dedicated work of our volunteers dealing with new accessions, preparing displays, answering queries and sorting out website anomalies we had a full programme of outreach activities, notably:

\* A visit to the Cathedral Archives \* A showing of the film on the gravegoods from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Gilton \* A visit from Cartright & Kelsey school (dressed as Victorians - mostly scullery maids or chimney sweeps) \* A visit from St Faiths school to learn about the First World War \* A talk on how our Parish might have been impacted if the East Kent coalfield had been fully developed \* A display of our Tithe Map in St Nicholas Church to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III \* A visit to Poulton Manor to see the very considerable restoration work being carried out by the current owners \* Exhibitions at the community coffee morning to acknowledge two significant dates; the 30th anniversary of the

opening of the Ash Bypass and the 450th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I's progress through Ash \* An "Introduction to the Archive" event for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer researcher.

This last event was held on 30th September. The four potential volunteers were hosted by Nina, Kathy, Pat and Mary who explained how new material is received, catalogued, stored and retrieved. On display were examples of the material we hold ... ranging from a Ptolemy IV coin (200 BC) found in a field near Richborough to early deeds, wills, books, farm accounts and newspaper cuttings. Following on from the success of this event we plan to hold an "Open Day" on Saturday 11th May next year to raise awareness of what we hold to a wider audience.



Our Monday team of researchers were awarded first prize for their display of St George at the Ash Horticultural Society's Spring Show. We also did

well in the Village hall quiz night !

**We thank all our members for supporting the Group. Your continued subscriptions are an essential contribution to the management and maintenance of Ash's important Archive.**