

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting 18th May 2015 at 7.30pm

Minutes of meeting

Present: Councillors J deGraft-Johnson, S Hipkin, P Hodges, K Richards, L Shouls, K Tatman, G Wyant, Mrs P Heath (clerk).

Apologies: former Chairman Dwyer

2015/19 Minutes of previous year's APM held on 19th May 2014

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by Cllr deGraft-Johnson and there were no matters arising.

2015/20: Presentation by Kent County Councillor Michael Northey

Cllr Northey spoke of the work done by local Councils and the flooding last year (Appendix 1)

2015/21: Presentation by former City Councillor Brian Staley

Brian Staley spoke of the eight years during which he had served as a liberal-democrat Councillor at Canterbury and of some of the issues he had dealt with and the changes effected, including the creation of Agewise which co-ordinated different groups for more effective working; improvements in rural public transport; the setting up of the A257 Group to allow villages along the route to work together to effect, for example, speed reduction; championing small businesses; opposing the closure of public toilets and Westgate Mall; the retention of Ellen Court for elderly residents; the committee system now in place which helped remove party politic from local matters.

He also spoke as Chairman of the Ghurkha Peace Foundation of which he is Chairman which raised £20k for victims of the recent earthquake in Nepal, all of which would go directly to those affected. He talked about his recent visit to Nepal and about the new scheme of twinning local schools, starting with Cheriton Primary School, with those in Nepal and praised the Ghurkhas for all they did to maintain world peace over the last two hundred years.

2015/22: Parish Council Chairman's report

In the absence of former Chairman Dwyer, the report was delivered by former Vice-Chairman Collins (Appendix 2). He wished to record his thanks to Cllr Dwyer and his appreciation of the tremendous job he had done in calming frictions in the village and making it a happy place.

2015/23 Review of accounts 2014-15

The closing balance, allowing for accruals, was £4,555.64, approximately £300 more than in the budget. (Appendix 3).

Wickhambreaux School

Mrs Dwyer spoke about the Outstanding rating for all areas awarded by Ofsted following the recent inspection which repeated the success in 2008. (Appendix 4). She mentioned the specialist teaching, collaboration with the Simon Langton School for Girls and how resources were shared between primary and secondary schools. The Early Years Foundation stage was particularly important. Mrs Dwyer reported that the school were planning to expand the building and that admissions might therefore rise.

Bramling Charity Fund

Cllr Tatman spoke of the Fund which was set up 12 years ago and how they had donated over £43k to the Pilgrim's Hospice in total over that period, including £6k the previous year. He was pleased to report that the in patient facilities would be retained in Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet.

Scottish Country Dancing

Mrs Elli Baly delivered the report of behalf of her husband , mentioning amongst other things, the successful Burn's Night celebration where 65 attended and £250 was raised for Pilgrim's Hospice. (Appendix 5).

In Vino Veritas

This talk was also delivered by Mrs Baly, (Appendix 5), and recorded details of wine evenings over the previous year and a planned visit to Alsace Wine Festival in August 2015.

Conservation Society

The Conservation Society had now closed and, due to time pressures, the planned presentation about the work of the CPRE by Alan Holmes was deferred until a later date.

Ickham Village Hall

Cllr deGraft-Johnson talked about how funds were raised to improve / repair the hall, including £2,300 from the Auction of Promises. Regular bookings, such as Keep Fit and the Wickhambreaux School Quiz Night, as well as single bookings had raised £6,200 last year. The Hall had also received a grant from 4VPO of £750 to replace the stage curtain rail prior to fitting new, fireproof curtains. During the year a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities had been installed to make the hall more useable for all residents. He reported that the Seniors' Lunches, previously run by Pat Jones and Lee Barker, were now organised by Mandy Knight and were being transferred to Wickhambreaux. He stated that there were now 8 members on the committee and that new members with new ideas were always welcome.

Ickham Church Report

Cllr Wyant delivered the report (Appendix 6) and spoke of the Auction of Promises which had raised £12k, of which 40% had gone into the Welcome Project and its importance in creating a fund-raised balance thereby making the project eligible to apply for grants. She thanked the village for its support including the £750 raised from plant sales and £1,200 pledged by Friends of Ickham for the water supply for the new facilities.

Friends of Ickham

Mrs deGraft-Johnson spoke of the way that the Charity raised its funds, for example the New Year's Eve supper which was quickly sold out and raised £900, and the small charge for emails circulated around the village by Jacque Grimsley. The FOI had been awarded £200 from the 4VPO to clear the pond but, as reported earlier, that work had been done by Highways and the money was being allocated to renovate the village signpost. £408.62 was raised for the WW1 Commemoration from the sale of poppies. The bank balance was currently £3,840.76, much of which would be spent in paying for the water supply for the Ickham Church Welcome project. Mrs deGraft-Johnson finished by asking for help in arranging the summer BBQ as well as asking people to tell the FOI of any projects in the village that needed financial support.

Councillor deGraft-Johnson thanked all speakers.

2015/25 Councillor Indemnity

Cllr deGraft-Johnson confirmed that Councillors were fully indemnified provided they had acted in good faith. He also mentioned that all Councillors will now be signatories on the bank accounts, once paperwork completed.

2015/26 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous APM held on 19th May 2014 were accepted as true records, proposed by Geoff Preston and seconded by Liz Preston.

2015/27 Cedar wood

Mr Preston raised the problem of the cedar wood which he had stored in this shed. No interest had been shown in making a commemorative sculpture etc and many disliked the colour of the wood so it was unanimously agreed that the wood should be scrapped and Mr Preston reimbursed for any costs involved. Mrs deGraft-Johnson mentioned that she had 12 cedar saplings which might be planted in a few years time.

2015/28 AOB

28/01: Mr Preston, as a former Chairman of the Council, expressed his disappointment at the poor attendance at the annual meeting and recommended that letters be sent to everyone as had been done in the past. He also urged Councillors to be strong and stick to decisions made at meetings even if some people objected.

28/02: The meeting was delighted to welcome Stuart Walker, the newly elected Councillor for Canterbury City Council, who had been unable to come earlier due to prior commitments. Cllr Walker introduced himself and spoke of his love of Kent, where he had lived all his life, and how he wished for it to remain unchanged.

28/03: Cllr deGraft-Johnson stated that the Parish website was out of date and needed updating and said that he would undertake this.

All other matters were deferred and the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Ickham and Well Annual Parish Meeting 18 May 2015

This is the season of Annual Parish and resident association AGM meetings. This is the second one of my ten parishes and around half dozen associations since the elections. Public service at any level is well worthwhile and not always recognised for the contribution it makes to our communities. So thanks everyone and in particular many thanks to both new and the outgoing parish council.

Locally you and various other people deserve real thanks for looking after the parish and keeping local councillors, Canterbury City Council and KCC well informed about what is happening locally. Last year there was a lot of partnership work regarding the floods. This year there has been a welcome lack of such problems, but local groups are staying vigilant. There are various mitigation schemes in place or in progress. Much praise goes to the River Management Group and their partners.

This is perhaps the time to reflect on what we do at KCC.

Every so often someone will complain that they receive 'nothing' or 'very little' for their council tax. A good response might be to simply list the 300+ services Kent County Council provides. Of course not everyone uses all the services – there's no compulsion to visit a library, download an e-book or visit a country park. But there are other services that everyone uses such as our roads and disposal of your waste (and paying the government landfill tax of £80 a tonne on that waste). Some services might be considered more as 'insurance' such as emergency planning, gritting the roads and provision of salt bins.

Much of Kent County Council's budget (and your council tax) is spent on school buildings and transporting children to and from school. If children are at their nearest appropriate school over three miles (two miles to age 8) then KCC is obliged to pay for this but KCC also provides a £9m annual subsidy to make a deeply discounted bus pass available to all 11 – 16 year olds. KCC subsidises some uneconomic rural bus services, to keep them open. These and other transport services cost around £70m a year.

For September 2015, 86% of Kent primary school children got their first choice of school and 96% got one of their top three choices. At secondary school 81% got their first choice and 96% one of their top four. The appeals system will further improve these figures.

Other services include the coroner's court, trading standards, help to those fleeing domestic abuse and youngsters needing help to get off drink and drugs. KCC's biggest area of expenditure (over £400m) is on social care for adults – the elderly, the mentally ill, the disabled and those with learning disabilities and for children – keeping them safe from abuse, arranging adoption or care.

The district/city council, Kent Police, Kent and Medway Fire Authority and the parish/town council also set their precepts and the district/city council then sends out the council tax bills on behalf of them. This year KCC agreed a rise of 1.99% (just under the referendum level) and I do hope that local residents feel that it is worth it.

Michael Northey

APPENDIX 2

Ladies and Gentlemen

My first point is to apologise for not being present and to thank Richard Collins for giving the summary of the year.

It has, on glancing at matters, been a quiet year compared to recent activity but at the same time the Parish Council have been working efficiently and diligently getting things done and moving forward with the trivia and minutiae that occur while waiting for the next big thing.

After the floods of last year the council, in the guise of Richard Collins, continued to press the Environment Agency and Southern Water to maximise flood protection work in the area. Their work has been very beneficial, and given the recent heavy rains and with groundwater higher than last year, the improvements are impressive, but this success is due to Richard's focus and persistence.

For flooding of another kind, Southern Water have replaced the primary water main along the A257 near Bramling. This followed multiple breaks and flooding near Bramling and again, while a successful project, was due to Kim Tatman maintaining a focus and drive on the matter.

The sycamore trees on the green have continued to make their presence known and while we have enjoyed their presence it has cost over £3000 to maintain them and they continue to be the largest expense that the Parish Council face. They are however a good example of the Council trying to balance many different aspects of life in a rural community and dealing with many different viewpoints, very much politics with a small P.

The village pond has seen improvements, thanks to efforts by Parishioners (and thanks to David Rosslyn Smith) and this shows how we can actually work together and improve our environment.

Similarly Geraldine Wyant, with assistance from others in the village, has dramatically moved forward plans for the church and this will make it again a hub for the future rather than a memory from the past.

The concerns of the year are the effects of spraying pesticides in the Parish and if we were to try and predict issues for the future then this may be one of them. The other issue is the increased crime in the area and the spate of robberies, particularly along the Street. This is something much on the minds of the Council and Parishioners and is again an area where the Council combined with Parishioners will have a great effect.

This year also sees the Council change once again. This change has been less dramatic than previously and is revision rather than revolution. That said, as with the previous council that was so ably led by Geoff Preston, the outgoing council continued to epitomise public service and common sense.

We have mentioned the efforts of Geraldine, Richard and Kim but must not forget John's work as treasurer and chairing the Village Hall Committee (whose work is very ably shown by recent improvements to the hall). Mark's work on planning (with very little contention recently) and Kate's efforts and input since she recently joined us. Thanks also go to Lee Barker for her previous service and to Pauline Gardner who showed full commitment as Clerk and whose efforts I very much appreciated. Thanks as ever to Jacque for all her e-mails, time and effort.

We now have a new Parish Council, and I suspect for the first time we have a Council with a majority of women, plus Pat as clerk who has already been very active and will be a great asset to the new Chairman. While this should be something that should not attract attention it does however show the spirit of Ickham and Well and that we are not some stereotyped backwater but a vibrant and relevant community of individuals working unselfishly together for the common good. My best wishes to the new council and we will all benefit from their public service, service for which I thank them and all those who I had the utmost pleasure to serve on the council with. My thanks to them all.

Appendix 3

CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS

With 10% Precept Increase	Year Ended 31st March 2015 Budget	Year Ended 31st March 2015 Actual
Balance b/f year end	£6,062.31	£ 6,098.45
Less uncleared cheque N Clary		-£ 189.16
Plus VAT refund		£ 32.72
Adjusted year end balance		£ 5,942.01
RECEIPTS		
CCC Concurrent Grant	2,077.73	£ 2,077.73
Precept	4,335.00	£ 4,335.00
Returned Cheque	100.00	£ 100.00
Bank Interest	1.01	£ 1.75
Total Receipts	£6,513.74	£ 6,514.48
PAYMENTS		
Administration	-488.29	-£ 237.23
Salary	-2,085.92	-£ 1,758.15
Subscriptions	-196.22	-£ 196.22
Insurance	-405.40	-£ 405.40
Audit Commission Fee	-120.00	
Grass Cutting	-945.00	-£ 685.00
Tree Maintenance	-3,050.00	-£ 3,050.00
Annual Parish Meeting	0.00	
Village Hall Rent for meetings	-100.00	-£ 100.00
Grants (Churchyard and donations)	-800.00	-£ 800.00
Signs & Noticeboard	0.00	
Christmas Tree	0.00	
Publications	0.00	
CCC Grant to Village Hall MC	0.00	
CCC Elections expenses	0.00	
KALC course	0.00	-£ 72.00
Friends of ickham Jubilee grant	0.00	
Misc	-72.00	
VAT Payments	-32.24	-£ 40.24
Total Payments	-£8,295.07	-£7,344.24
Accrual - Salary Feb & March		-£508.01
Accrual - Expenses Feb & March		-£48.60
Balance C/f	£4,280.98	£4,555.64
Total in bank accounts 31/3/14	£ 6,098.45	
Balance in current account 31/3/15	£ 887.79	
Balance in deposit account 31/3/15	£ 4,224.46	
Total in bank accounts	£ 5,112.25	
Balance B/f	£ 6,098.45	
Less uncleared cheque N Clary	-£ 189.16	
Plus VAT refund	£ 32.72	
Plus receipts	£ 6,514.48	
Less payments	-£7,344.24	
Total of cleared cheques / receipts	£ 5,112.25	
Less accruals	-£ 556.61	
Total carried forward	£ 4,555.64	

Wickhambreaux Church of England Primary School

The Street, Wickhambreaux, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 1RN

Inspection dates

25 - 26 February 2015

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
Leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Behaviour and safety of pupils		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching		Outstanding	1
Achievement of pupils		Outstanding	1
Early years provision		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

This is an outstanding school.

- The headteacher, ably supported by senior leaders and governors, constantly strives to achieve the very best for the pupils. This leads to outstanding practice.
- Leaders have excellent systems to check how well each pupil is doing. This helps them to intervene quickly if a pupil starts to fall behind. As a result, all pupils make good or better progress from their different starting points.
- There is a culture of continuous improvement. The headteacher has developed strong links with other schools to enable staff to share their excellent practice and benefit from strengths elsewhere.
- Teaching is outstanding. Staff know each pupil as an individual and carefully plan to meet their needs so that learning progresses well. Specialist teaching in music, French, science and mathematics enhances pupils' experiences and contributes to excellent standards of achievement.
- Pupils enjoy coming to school because the curriculum is stimulating. Teachers ensure that everyone can access the wide range of exciting opportunities which help pupils develop a love of learning.
- Leaders are not afraid to try new ideas to improve teaching and learning. For example, they have identified that procedures for marking and feedback could be even more effective. They are rightly testing new approaches to identify what will work best for the pupils, but at the moment there is a lack of consistency.
- Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils are respectful and look out for each other. In lessons they concentrate hard and try their best.
- Pupils are looked after extremely well. Relationships across the school are warm and trusting so that pupils feel safe and secure. Systems to help keep pupils safe are robust.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding. Children get off to a very good start because adults ensure children are well cared for. As a result they develop their confidence and learn to respect others. Children's attitudes to learning are very positive and staff have high expectations of achievement. Consequently children make excellent progress and are well prepared for Year 1.

Information about this inspection

- The inspector observed learning in seven parts of lessons. Six were joint observations with the headteacher.
- Meetings were held with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher/special educational needs coordinator, the subject leader for mathematics, the reading manager, the early years leader, four governors including the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority.
- The inspector met with a group of pupils and spoke informally to pupils at lunchtime. The inspector also attended two whole-school worship sessions and a French club for gifted pupils. The inspector heard pupils read.
- Informal discussions were held with parents and carers at the end of the school day. The inspector also took account of 46 responses to the online questionnaire (Parent View) and an email from a parent. Responses to the staff questionnaire were also analysed.
- A range of documentation was examined including the school's action plans; records of pupils' progress and attainment; records of attendance, behaviour, child protection and safeguarding; the school's self-assessment; documents relating to performance management and records of governing body meetings.

Inspection team

Amanda Gard, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Full report

Information about this school

- The school is smaller than the average-sized primary school. There are four classes altogether. The majority of pupils are taught in mixed-age classes. Reception children are taught in a single-age class, attending full time.
- The majority of pupils are of White British heritage.
- The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs is below average.
- The proportion of pupils for whom the pupil premium grant provides support is well below the national average. This funding is used to support pupils in the care of the local authority and those who are known to be eligible for free school meals.
- The school meets the current government floor standards, which set the minimum expectation for pupils' attainment and progress.
- Teachers give their time to provide a range of extra activities for pupils before and after school.
- The school is part of the Canterbury Collaboration of nine schools, in which the headteacher plays a lead role.
- The headteacher is a local leader of education and has supported Bapchild and Tonge Primary and Lansdowne School in this role.
- The school works collaboratively with the independent sector through its link with King's School, Canterbury.
- The school trains teachers through its partnership with an initial teaching training group.
- There was a Church Inspection of the school, under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005, in June 2012. This judged the school's provision to be outstanding.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

- Agree and implement a whole school approach to marking and feedback to ensure consistent use of best practice across the school.

Inspection judgements

The leadership and management are outstanding

- The headteacher is uncompromising in her drive to ensure each pupil achieves their best. She relentlessly pursues additional funding to provide them with the very best opportunities. As a result she achieves her aim to provide pupils with 'a memorable childhood', and to ensure all have an equal opportunity.
- Staff say they are proud to be part of the Wickhambreaux team. Inspired by the headteacher, they are very committed to the school. For example, all teachers offer activities after school to extend pupils' experiences and develop their skills.
- The school has developed successful partnerships with other schools to benefit both staff and pupils. Through the Canterbury Collaboration, headteachers work together to evaluate teaching and learning in partnership schools. This external review helps Wickhambreaux staff maintain excellent standards and develop strong practice. Through the link with King's School pupils access specialist activities, such as forensic science. External providers provide access to able writers' sessions. Such events help pupils deepen their understanding.
- The headteacher leads the staff in constantly reviewing their practice so that teaching remains of high quality. For example, she encouraged the mathematics leader to introduce 'Singapore maths' when she noted a dip in progress: this is successfully underway. She rightly recognises that marking and feedback is the next area to develop and has already started to trial different methods.
- Subject leaders play a full part as middle leaders in maintaining and improving standards. They use their excellent subject knowledge effectively to provide helpful support for their colleagues. As a result, there is a very high standard of teaching across the school.
- The exciting curriculum underpins the school's high achievements, because it inspires pupils to learn. For example, during the inspection there was a buzz of anticipation in each class as pupils eagerly anticipated the arrival of real moon rock to supplement their learning about space. There are many trips to support learning, such as a visit to the coast when learning about rivers, which help to bring learning to life. Pupils develop financial awareness through enterprise projects, which see them borrowing money from the school to create a product, and selling it. They keep the profit once interest is deducted on their loan! Such initiatives prepare pupils well for later life.
- There is a culture of respect for others in the school. Pupils learn about different faiths and have the opportunity to find out at first hand what others believe, for example through their visit to a synagogue. Pupils report that everyone, whatever their beliefs, is treated the same in school. They learn about democracy through electing their school councillors. They understand that these pupils have a responsibility to represent their views, saying, 'They keep their promise and try their best.' Pupils are extremely well prepared for life in modern Britain.
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is a strength of the school. Daily worship sessions provide valuable time for pupils to reflect on important issues such as working for peace, sensitively supported by the adults around them. Pupils learn the importance of belonging to a community as they strive to earn awards which contribute to a whole school treat. In addition, there are opportunities to appreciate the talents of others. For example, as the whole school crossed the road to the village hall for worship, they were accompanied by the sounds of the school brass band, already in the hall, very competently playing 'Those magnificent men in their flying machines'!
- Sports funding is used to benefit all pupils, providing equipment, training and swimming sessions. A very high proportion of pupils access the extensive range of sports on offer. Pupils report that, 'everyone gets to go to a tournament', reflecting the school's commitment to equal opportunities.
- Leaders ensure that funding for disadvantaged pupils (the pupil premium) is used effectively. As a result these pupils have equal access to all school activities and additional opportunities such as writers' workshops and music lessons. Their progress is monitored carefully to make sure they do as well as they should.
- Parents are very positive about the school and the vast majority would recommend it to others. Parents appreciate how teachers recognise and support each child's needs, saying, 'They go the extra mile.'
- Safeguarding requirements are met extremely well. All staff have up to date training in child protection and understand the right procedures to follow in case of concern. The school site is safe and secure and there is careful supervision such as when pupils when they cross the road to the hall.
- The local authority provides effective support, for example by leading staff meetings to promote debate about marking and feedback.
- **The governance of the school:**
 - Governors contribute very well to the school's success. They analyse pupil progress data thoroughly,

including for pupils eligible for additional funding, to help them understand standards of achievement. They also robustly monitor the school's progress towards targets in the school's improvement plan. Although very supportive, they are not afraid to ask challenging questions to ensure the school is doing as well as it should. They have a clear understanding of the quality of teaching and how it impacts on children's learning. They recognize the links between teachers' performance and pay. Governors review their own practice carefully. For example, they appointed a new governor with business experience to complement the skills of other governors, in order to be as effective as possible.

The behaviour and safety of pupils are outstanding

Behaviour

- The behaviour of pupils is outstanding
- In lessons and around the school pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They demonstrate a very high level of respect for adults and their peers.
- Pupils' attitudes to learning are outstanding. They listen carefully and concentrate hard in lessons. They settle quickly to their work because they are very motivated by the high standard of teaching.
- There are very few incidents recorded in the school's concerns book. Where incidents do occur, records show they are dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- Attendance is in line with the national average and improving.

Safety

- The school's work to keep pupils safe and secure is outstanding.
- Pupils look out for others and feel well supported by their peers. The buddy system at playtimes means pupils care for anyone who is unhappy. Pupils are confident that, 'If you're sad or lonely, someone will play with you.'
- Pupils feel very safe in school and parents agree. They report that bullying is very rare. Pupils have a good awareness of the dangers of different types of bullying. Recent e-safety lessons taught pupils effectively how to avoid and combat cyber-bullying. One pupil explains that each class has a worry box in case pupils need to tell an adult about concerns, but that these 'are hardly used, because there's not many worries.'

The quality of teaching is outstanding

- Teachers have very good subject knowledge and this helps them to set work at the right level of challenge across the curriculum, including reading, writing and mathematics. For example, in a lesson teaching pupils to write in paragraphs, all pupils could access the task set because it was skilfully altered to meet different needs. As a result all pupils made good progress.
- In each and every classroom there is a very positive climate for learning. Teachers encourage pupils to 'have a go' and other pupils support them. This helps pupils to learn well.
- During lessons teachers expertly check pupils' understanding and adjust their lesson if needed. In a lesson on fractions the teacher stopped the class to explain further when pupils were unsure, so that they could then confidently tackle their work.
- Careful questioning makes pupils think hard. This was seen in a science lesson where pupils had to consider how to plant some unknown seeds to ensure they would grow. By the end of the lesson they were able confidently to explain their decision, showing development of good reasoning skills.
- Pupils' books show they make excellent progress over time. There is evidence that pupils improve their work according to teachers' feedback and pupils themselves say, 'You always know what standard you are.' However, currently there are different approaches to marking as teachers trial new methods. The headteacher recognises that this needs to be more consistent across the school in order to build on what is working best.
- The specialist teachers for mathematics, science, French and music are a real asset to the school. Pupils are highly motivated by their infectious passion and depth of knowledge and accordingly reach high standards. These staff provide an extensive range of opportunities to broaden pupils' experiences such as trips to a French school to understand another culture and practise the language, and a visit to the O2 arena to sing as part of the Young Voices choir. As a result of the skilled teaching and commitment of all teachers pupils develop a real thirst for learning.

The achievement of pupils

is outstanding

- The work in pupils' books and tracking information showing progress over time in reading, writing and mathematics shows that all pupils make at least good progress, and many exceed expected progress, from their different starting points in all these subjects. The school has very small cohorts so each pupil represents a high percentage. Published data shows fluctuations year on year compared to national averages because of this, and because many pupils enter the school mid way through a key stage.
- Senior leaders have robust tracking systems to check how well each pupil is achieving, backed up by their excellent knowledge of each pupil. The achievements of all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged or have special educational needs, are scrutinised to make sure they are doing as well as they should. If a pupil starts to fall behind, swift action is taken to intervene, using a range of approaches according to individual need. Once a programme is complete, leaders maintain close checks to ensure achievement is maintained. As a result pupils, including those in receipt of free school meals and with special educational needs, catch up well, making very good progress compared to other pupils nationally and their peers in school. Because there are very few pupils in receipt of free school meals, the gaps in their attainment in reading, writing and mathematics fluctuate year on year. Sometimes they are behind their peers in school and sometimes they are ahead. However, they always make good progress from their different starting points.
- Letters and sounds (phonics) is taught very effectively, and typically, pupils do well with a high proportion meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check. A dip in the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in 2014 was due to the specific cohort, although many were close to the required score. Leaders took prompt and effective action so that these pupils are quickly catching up.
- The school nurtures the aptitudes of all pupils including the more able. Additional activities, such as the French club for gifted and talented pupils and mathematics masterclasses, help these pupils develop their talents. As a result they make very good progress across the curriculum including in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Reading is a strength of the school. The talented reading manager ensures all staff have high quality training to teach reading, including through the Better Reading Programme which helps pupils develop fluency. Pupils approach their books with self-belief because the school encourages a 'can-do' attitude. They tackle unknown words confidently using their phonics skills to achieve success. Pupils enjoy reading. There are many opportunities to practise at school on a daily basis, supported by good links with home. The school takes advantage of special events such as World Book Day, when pupils skyped a school in Abu Dhabi to get an international perspective on books, to promote reading for pleasure.

The early years provision

is outstanding

- Children settle quickly into school at the beginning of the year because leaders ensure effective transition from their different pre-schools. As a result they are ready for learning right from the start.
- Leaders make sure that staff are well trained and the learning environment is highly stimulating. This means children access a wide range of opportunities which meet their needs exceptionally well.
- The calm and supportive classroom atmosphere ensures that behaviour is excellent. Children listen patiently to others' contributions, demonstrating superb attitudes to learning. Adults set high expectations for good manners. Class rules focus on being kind to others and adults use praise effectively to help children keep the rules so they are always 'twinkling stars'.
- Teaching is of a very high standard. This is because adults know children very well and tailor activities carefully to their interests. This motivates them to learn. Adults build carefully on children's prior knowledge and understanding to help them make excellent progress. For example, discussions about meteors crashing into the moon increased children's vocabulary and caught their interest. They chose to use this in their own play because adults provided sparkly dough and marbles to represent the moon and meteors. These experiences enabled them to produce independent writing of a very high standard about a trip to the moon, applying their knowledge of sounds successfully to spell basic words.
- There are effective home-school links through regular communication in children's learning journals. This lets parents know what their child has learned so they can build on this at home. For example, one child who learned to write the days of the week at school was inspired to take this further at home, writing the months of the year to show the teacher.
- Children's learning journey books show their excellent progress since the start of the year. By the end of Reception a higher proportion of children meet or exceed the early learning goals than the national

average. Children are very well prepared for Year 1.

Children are well looked after, safe and secure because adults know them well. Older pupils say, 'We are all friends' and look out for the Reception children. Parents appreciate the nurturing environment which means their children love coming to school.

Two after school clubs are provided for Reception children to attend. These help develop children's independence and social skills in preparation for moving to their next class.

What inspection judgements mean

School

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	An outstanding school is highly effective in delivering outcomes that provide exceptionally well for all its pupils' needs. This ensures that pupils are very well equipped for the next stage of their education, training or employment.
Grade 2	Good	A good school is effective in delivering outcomes that provide well for all its pupils' needs. Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	A school that requires improvement is not yet a good school, but it is not inadequate. This school will receive a full inspection within 24 months from the date of this inspection.
Grade 4	Inadequate	<p>A school that has serious weaknesses is inadequate overall and requires significant improvement but leadership and management are judged to be Grade 3 or better. This school will receive regular monitoring by Ofsted inspectors.</p> <p>A school that requires special measures is one where the school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the school's leaders, managers or governors have not demonstrated that they have the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the school. This school will receive regular monitoring by Ofsted inspectors.</p>

School details

Unique reference number	118660
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	453238

This inspection was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection was also deemed a section 5 inspection under the same Act.

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary controlled
Age range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	112
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Claire Dwyer
Headteacher	Ann Campling
Date of previous school inspection	8 July 2008
Telephone number	01227 721300
Fax number	01227 721300

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REPORT FOR ICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Scottish Country Dancing takes place in the Village Hall over the winter months and traditionally culminates in either a Burns Night Supper or similar Scottish themed evening. By all accounts it is a popular village activity being well supported by roughly 30 enthusiasts.

At the 2015 Burns Night Supper, the Chairman was able to report that the standard of dancing had risen to the extent that the Ickham Dancers could reel with the best of 'eightsomes' and hold their own against the most dashing of sergeants and the noblest of Dukes. The Burns Night Supper was typical of an Ickham social event with about 65 people attending and everyone playing a part in helping to prepare food, to decorate the hall, and to give and enjoy some really excellent speeches. The dancers and the supper raised £250 for Pilgrims Hospice.

Everyone is welcome at the dancing evenings; no skill is required (or apparent) so newcomers are encouraged to come along and to give it a go. It's great for fitness.

Finally, thanks go to Pat and Alan Jones and to Elli Baly who make it all happen by doing the administrative chores.

Dick Baly

IN VINO VERITAS

The Ickham Wine Club "VINO VERITAS" continues to thrive with wine tasting meetings held roughly every 3-4 months in the Duke William and with annual wine visits for those interested. The seating capacity in the Duke William is limited to 30.

Wine evenings over the past 12 months have included a first class presentation on Eastern European wines by Emma Sarjeant; one on some excellent wines from lesser known *appellations* in the Bordeaux region by Jamie at Le Mouton Rouge (a wine merchant in St Dunstan's and well worth a visit) and by Richard Serisier, whose wine 'Le Bout du Monde' is winning gold medals in France and getting rave reviews; and an interesting evening on Kentish wines with Phillip and Sally Watts presenting their Barnsole wines from Staple (again worth a visit).

In December 2014, 20 members of the group visited Budapest under the guise of VINO Veritas. This visit included a tour to three vineyards including supper at the third, and numerous serious tastings of some great Hungarian wines on an individual basis.

Finally, a visit to a wine festival in Alsace has been proposed for August 2015.

Thanks again to Elli Baly for organising the tours and for running the accounts.

Ickham Church Report for Annual Parish Meeting

Church life continues with two 9:30 Sunday services a month. There have been four weddings, four baptisms, and two funerals with burials. The finances of day-to-day running and maintenance of the Church were in deficit at the year end, December 31st 2014, with expenditure exceeding income by £1000. To help to rectify this, a stewardship campaign was run within the Church family to try to increase pledged giving. This proved successful, and we shall see at the end of the year whether it is sufficient to maintain a positive balance. Fundraising by events such as the Autumn market and the recent Goodies on the green are essential to help this and when supported by such a willing and happy band of people as we saw at Goodies on the Green on Saturday, the events are a delight. The other activities of the Church, supported by many villagers, are the church cleaning, flower arranging, and churchyard clearance. All those helping with these activities are too numerous to name but are sincerely appreciated. Liz Preston is an enormous help, for which I am very grateful. She supervises the church cleaning rota and makes sure the heating is on when needed. She liaises with Gill Barrett, who in turn oversees flower arrangers to great effect. They excelled themselves at Harvest festival, with their arrangements in boots raising £ 250 for Farm Africa. Other artistic people in the village produced hundreds of poppies to adorn the church railings to commemorate the start of WW1, which was also commemorated by Alan Jones with a display in church, and Adrian Bawtee who directed a concert of music and readings. Alan still opens and closes the church nearly every day, and makes sure it happens

when he is away; this an essential task allowing people to enter the church to appreciate its peace and beauty between 9pm and 5 pm.

During the year, the Church Welcome Project progresses to introduce disabled access, water, a servery, and a unisex/disabled toilet. The PCC is nearly to the point of being able to apply for a Church faculty, and to put the work out to tender. Grants have been and are being actively sought already with some considerable success and I must again express my gratitude to KCC Councillor Northy for his member's grant which enabled payment of most of the architect's fees. I anticipate we may be able to start the work before the end of 2015.

I must thank the PCC for their support, and especially Phil Stanley as Treasurer and Pat Heath as secretary. Jane Boucher brings a wealth of experience and Hendrik our organist is full of ideas. Chris, our vicar, works tirelessly and supports us in many ways.