

Ashfield Community Council Annual Report April 2026

Committee members: Sam Thomas (Chair), Geoff Henney (Treasurer), Graham Greene (Vice Chair), Mike Harrison, Andy Pitts, Monica Brown, Richard Ellis, Ryland Thomas.

October 2025 marked 50 years since the village hall first opened and started providing services and events to the residents of Ashfield. I hope that the original founders would be pleased to know that the hall is still going strong, and their time and effort 50 years ago to create the hall has been worthwhile, with many Ashfield residents both past and present, along with people from neighbouring villages still enjoying the use of hall.

As always, there has been some minor maintenance work and improvements in the hall, for example the old tree stumps have been removed and smart new hedging installed in its place, along with a new bike rack and a most recently, a new lock on the front door.

We have been busy with our events yet again, which have included several pop-up pub evenings, a cocktail night (a particular favourite of mine!), a Halloween party, two Christmas events, a quiz evening, wine tasting, fish and chip evening, and a new event for 2025 the barn dance and of course, the summer barbecue which is usually our most well attended event. Hopefully we will continue to see many people attending events throughout the coming year, with the wine tasting evening coming up very soon on the 9th of May.

We have also had several private bookings such as birthday parties, and of course the hall is host to regular meetings and events including ladies' evenings, parish council meetings, stained glass classes, bowls, karate and Pilates lessons and of not forgetting the all-important cyclist's coffee mornings, all of which generates so much income for our hall.

As a result, revenue for the hall continues to be steady and we are yet again in strong position for the forthcoming year. Please see the separate report from our Treasurer Geoff Henney, to whom I would like to offer my thanks both personally and on behalf of the committee for all of his hard work both behind the scenes and with the running of the hall and our events.

On that note, it only remains for me to give my thanks to the committee who all play their parts in the smooth running of our hall and events, and to Fraser Pitts, who can regularly be found behind the bar despite not being an official member of the committee.

In addition, my thanks go of course to our friends and neighbours who support us not only by attending but by volunteering to support our events. To name just a few, such as running quiz evenings, (Malcom and Sue Pease), and by providing endless amounts of delicious cake for our cyclists, (Monica, Ann, Lisa, Sue, Petra, Kath, Sandra).

We look forward to continuing running events and to another successful year here for the Ashfield Community Council.

Sam Thomas

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