

2015 Recorders Report for Ashfield Cum Thorpe

January

Cyclists Tea Stop - refreshments were provided in the Village Hall for a cycling club – one of many visits throughout the year. The visits provide funds for the village and the village is a convenient stopping place for cycling clubs, so a win win situation.

April

Sizeable branches from a pine tree growing at the front of the church yard fell into the road following a storm. A tree surgeon had previously advised that this tree appeared to have been struck by lightning some time ago and concern was expressed about its condition. The tree surgeon had actually been consulted about an adjacent diseased lime tree which had a rotten/hollow trunk. The estimated cost for the removal of the two trees was around £1,000, and contributions were requested towards the cost of this work. The removal of the trees took place in November, with more requests for funding.

Earlier in the year, urgent masonry repairs were carried out to the church and a grant of £1,200 was received from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

April 11th The wedding took place between Michelle Minter and Mark Hammond at St Mary's, officiated by Graham Vellacott, with a reception at The Cretingham Bell. Michelle grew up in Ashfield and her parents still live in the village.

April 12th Robert Grimsey was unanimously re-elected to serve as Church Warden for the following 12 months. As there should really be two Church Wardens, anyone interested in taking on the role was requested to contact either Robert or the Rector for more information.

May

May 10th St Mary's hosted the benefice Rogation Service. The service was held outside in the churchyard and after worship, everyone re-assembled in the village hall for a bring and share lunch.

May 7th Six Parish Councillors for Ashfield (Simon Garrett, Robert Grimsey, Myles Hansen, Ruth Hart, Geoffrey Hazlewood, Ann Langley) were elected uncontested.

June

June 14th A report from the Police to the Parish Council advised that between 22nd April 2014 and 14th June 2015, 3 crimes had been recorded: damage to a fence; theft in a dwelling and driving a motor vehicle with excess alcohol. The Report also noted that vehicle speed in Ashfield had been monitored and concluded that the average speed of 33.6 mph in a 30 mph limit did not warrant the use of a Speed Cam Van.

August

August 9th A ramble to Framsdon - starting at the Village Hall for a walk of about 3 miles. Lunch was at the Doberman Pub, Framsdon or a packed lunch, and return transport was available if required. A donation of £1 each was requested towards Hall funds. Organised by Malcolm and Sue Pease.

August Colin Smith moved from Chiltern End, Ashfield to Lincolnshire to live nearer to his family. Colin and his family moved to Ashfield in 1970 and had been very active in the life of the

village. Colin had lived alone since his wife Judy died from cancer in 2009. Chiltern End is now the family home of Mike Harrison, Sarah Walker and their children.

August 23st A Tea Party was held to celebrate 40 Years of the Village Hall, with a 70's theme, 70's music, fun and games for the children, tea, beer and food. A flight in a private light aircraft was auctioned. There was a display of village memorabilia, in particular relating to the history of the village hall.

September

September 12th Ashfield Mystery Meal. This involves 16 couples, a four course meal plus coffee, taking place at 16 or 17 different venues, mostly in Ashfield. Each couple hosts one course in their home for 3 other couples. The evening was arranged by Dick and Gill Knight.

September 12th The 34th Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Annual Bike Ride and Walk took place. St. Mary's was open to welcome visitors taking part. There was torrential rain at 9 am however and no cyclists appeared in Ashfield until 13.45.

The new owners of Acresfield, Jeremy and Suzanne Berwick, moved in. The house had been empty since November 2014 when the previous owner, Susie Mellor was admitted to hospital after being diagnosed with cancer. Susie died on 19th December 2014 in St. Elizabeth Hospice. She had lived alone with her two cats. New homes were found for the cats and the house put on the market and sold.

October

October 3rd A Harvest Supper was held in the Village Hall, with entertainment from Peter Holloway, who had entertained the residents of Ashfield on many occasions. Although the number of attendees were down this year, £401.50 was raised for church funds.

November

November Brian Read died at the age of 80 and his funeral was held in the church. Brian was born in Ashfield and later moved to Thorpe Lane where, for a number of years, he ran a nursery with his wife Doreen. He had served as a Parish Councillor for Ashfield.

December

December 18th A Christmas Social in the Village Hall, with drinks and snacks and a chance of a get together to celebrate the festive season.

December 20th Carol Service at St Mary's led by Revd Graham Vellacott, with nine lessons and carols. Ashfield Ladies Group was asked to provide a choir, (as it had for the previous year, when more people attended a Carol Service at Ashfield than for at least 25 years). Mince pies and mulled wine were served at the back of the church after the service.

Ashfield Footpaths Group Report

Robert Grimsey reported that he had walked the entire footpath/bridleway network within Ashfield parish, a distance of 15 km, in order to inspect the paths and signage. A log is kept by Ashfield Footpaths Group and reported to Suffolk County Council. Robert reported that all paths are accessible and in many cases are clearly being well used. Robert occasionally comes across the

landowners when walking the paths and is able to pass on comments or concerns. One common comment from landowners concerned dogs not being kept under control or on a lead, and Robert reminded people that dogs should be kept under control on footpaths at all times.

Ashfield Ladies Group

Another successful year, with 25 members at the end of the year. The Group meets once a month, mostly in the Village Hall. There have been 8 meetings with speakers; the AGM meeting; outings to a local winery, a pub and a Christmas meal involving the giving of presents.

Properties/Buildings 2015 Alterations were made to Mary Vale. An extension was built to the North side of the house, to include a porch and front entrance. A new path was constructed from the front porch to the back door (which had been the main door until the new entrance was created).

Also, during the year, alterations and building work were undertaken to The Cottage.

Anita Sharpe

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