

2016 Recorders Report for Ashfield cum Thorpe



Another year has gone by in Ashfield and for the most part, life has continued as normal.

Planning Issues and Traffic

One issue that concerned the village was a planning application in the nearby village of Monk Soham. An application was made for a touring caravan and camping park with forty pitches, on a site behind Jewsons (builders yard), which would have resulted in considerable slow moving caravan traffic having to negotiate the junction of the A1120 and Ashfield Street and then travel through the village along the narrow road.

There was much opposition to the application generally, and a meeting was held in Monk Soham which was attended by some Ashfield residents. On 1st March, another meeting was held in Ashfield, and this one was chaired by Simon Garrett, assisted by Ruth Hart and Myles Hansen from Ashfield Parish Council, with the local councillor and representatives from Monk Soham. Many Ashfield residents attended.

The Councillor advised about planning procedure and the issues Mid Suffolk District Council could consider in deciding planning applications. A show of hands recorded unanimous opposition to the application and individuals were encouraged to make representations to Mid Suffolk, in addition to the response from the Parish Council.

By 26th April, this planning application had been withdrawn and a revised application was later submitted for the construction of 12 hardstanding parking spaces and the siting of 9 shepherd's huts. It is unlikely that this application will be opposed by Ashfield residents.

The European Union Referendum

Voting took place in the Village Hall for the Referendum on Thursday 23rd June whether to leave or remain in the European Union.

Ashfield is in the constituency of Central Suffolk and North Ipswich and since 2010, the MP has been the Conservative Dr. Daniel Poulter. Dr. Poulter was in favour of remaining in the EU.

For this vote, Ashfield was part of the Mid Suffolk area and the vote count took place at Trinity Park in Ipswich. The result for the Mid Suffolk area was 44.8% remain (27,391) and 55.2% out (33794), with a turnout of 78.1%. All districts in Suffolk voted to leave.

Theft

In January, an old copper tank was stolen during the day from the garden of Sou-Less, the home of Minter & Co, plumbers and heating engineers. The tank had been taken out of the property Bulls Barn, earlier that day, by Minter & Co. The police were informed but the property was not recovered.

House Changes

House sales: The properties, Mulberry Tree Cottage; Pink Cottage; 2 Hillside; Mara Cottage, were all sold and occupied by residents new to Ashfield. (Hillside was sold twice, once at auction and again after being renovated).

The property, Thatch End is currently being advertised for sale.

Rentals: One of the Roll and Pork Cottages, Swan Cottage and Glebe House were all advertised for rental. Glebe House was rented out for the first time.

A new house is being built just outside the parish, on the Kenton Road.

Births

On 2nd September, Danny and Mel Wilson, of the Old Post Office, became parents on the birth of their daughter Darcey.

St Mary's Church

September 10th Cycle Ride for Suffolk Historic Churches, involving Ashfield church. The Organiser for Ashfield was Robert Grimsey.

1st October, the Harvest Supper took place at the Village Hall, organised by Jane Davidson. A three-course meal was prepared by Ashfield residents, with entertainment from Margaret and Fred, alias Peter Driver; all for the price of £8. The bar was open and manned by Kipper Brown and the cyclamen decorating each table were sold off for £3 each. The evening was not particularly well attended this year, but those that were present enjoyed the evening.

18th December, Carol Service at St Marys

24th December, Christmas Communion at St Marys

Ashfield Gentleman's evening / the Brenton Bash, took place on 15th April.

This event was started by Mr Michael Brenton, (who had also been Ashfield's first Village Recorder). It was conceived as an evening out for the gentlemen of the village and friends. The Ladies of Ashfield had evenings out, in particular a Christmas meal, but the gentlemen didn't.

Mike arranged an annual evening out to a local hostelry and in the early years, transport was provided by Neville Jephcote, who had access to a mini bus. After Mike died, the Gentleman's Evening was renamed The Brenton Bash.

There have been a few missed years, but this year, the gentlemen of Ashfield and friends were taken off to the Trowel and Hammer in Cotton. The venue and location for the evening was kept a secret from the participants, who were taken by bus. Apparently, the driver was unfamiliar with the area and got a bit lost finding the pub, to the amusement of those on board. The evening was arranged by Chris Sharpe.

Ashfield Ladies Group

The successful group continues to meet once a month in the Village Hall, on the third Tuesday. Meetings have included the following talks and outings: - Tax, Care and Toy boys; Sizewell C and the impact on the Community; A Suffolk Bevin Boy; Suffragettes; The AGM; A visit to Ipswich Transport Museum; A meal out at The Cretingham Bell; Diet and Nutrition; Les Jardins de la Loire; Making Christmas Baubles; A Christmas meal at the Dennington Queen.

Rambling

On 22nd April, a group of Ashfield residents and friends met at the village hall and set off for a ramble to Cretingham organised by Malcom and Sue Pease. Anne Langley provided a bag carrying service, transporting bags by car to and from the Cretingham Bell, where lunch was held. The weather was very changeable and the walkers had to brave hail showers. A separate room was provided at the pub with a good fire and there was no hurry to return to Ashfield in the rain.

Tea Party

A tea party was held in the Village Hall on Sunday 5th June, organised by the Village Hall Committee, for Ashfield Residents, friends and children, to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Participants were asked to bring a plate of food to share and the dress code was red white and blue. The event was held a week before the Queen's official birthday so that there was no clash with other birthday celebrations.

Ashfield Mystery Meal

The Mystery Meal (which involves at least sixteen couples providing one course of a three-course meal at their own home for three other couples) took place this year on 29th October and was organised again by Dick and Jill Knight. The event was held later in the year than in previous years and twenty couples took part. A good evening, a chance to catch up with friends and to make new friends.

Vinyl Night

Another well attended Vinyl Night at the Village Hall, taking place on November 11, with David Whitham from Monk Soham as DJ and provider of all the necessary equipment to play vinyl records. Everyone had a chance to bring along a record and to have one track played. Some dancing took place.

Christmas get together at the village hall 2nd December.

Cyclists in Ashfield

The village hall continues to provide a refreshment stop for cyclists, where they can consume drinks and homemade cakes, provided by Ashfield residents.

Gardening and general maintenance

There have also been Gardening parties at the village hall to tidy up the grass and gardens.

Otters

Over the summer, Otters in Ashfield raided garden ponds. Kipper and Shirley Brown of Sunnyside noted that overnight the netting covering their pond had been lifted and the reeds in the pond disturbed. It seems that an otter had been visiting the village and dining out on goldfish.

Anita Sharpe,

Merryvale House, Ashfield.