

The Ashlink

December 2025 January 2026



"Got any mince pies Mate?"

The Editor's Bit

As usual there has been a lot happening in the village and the Christmas season promises a lot more. There are concerts and a fair happening - and not only in Ashill of course. West Raynham Veterans centre is holding a Christmas tree festival Christmas market and are asking for contributions. Contact details are in the last Ashlink.

I hope as many people turn out for the Church carol service as did last year. It was a lovely event and the minced pies and mulled wine added to the festive feel of things. Frustratingly I will be unable to attend as we have a family visit booked that day! I am sure I will get feedback though.

We also need to remember that not everyone has family close by and for some this Christmas will be their first without a loved one. I hope people will reach out and share some Christmas spirit .

Glen Franklin

Mistletoe

Sitting under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
One last candle burning low,
All the sleepy dancers gone,
Just one candle burning on,
Shadows lurking everywhere:
Some one came, and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go
Nodding under the mistletoe
Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,
Stooped in the still and shadowy air
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.

Walter De La Mare

*The editor is off to deliver
presents to his family*



What's on at The Call In

Where is The Call In?
The Green, Hale
Road IP25 7AT
Next to the duck
pond



Find out more: Contact
Chair person Dee Bolton
01760 441 622
07926917409
AVA Contact, Ray
Hucklesby 01760 441 514

AVA ARCHIVES GROUP Monday 10.00 - 12.00am

COFFEE MORNINGS TUESDAY and THURSDAY 9.30 - 11.30am
All Welcome Come along, for a Mardle (Chat) and meet New Friends

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB Every other Wednesday 7.00-9.00pm, For
Details

Contact Ray 07808 922171 Email: Raydee100@googlemail.com

MEMORY CAFE Every Wed of the month from 10.30 - 1200 plus
12.30 - 2pm on second Wednesday of month Further information
telephone 0754 862 6337.

BEETLE DRIVE every other Thursday 2.00 - 4.30pm

LUNCH CLUB Every Friday 12.00 - 1.30

For information regarding the Lunch Club, Contact Denise on 07808
551952

KNIT 'n' STITCH GROUP Friday 2.00 - 4.00pm

BREAKFAST CLUB (All Welcome, No Booking Required)

Saturdays 9.00 – 12.00am Last Orders 11.30am

small breakfast £6.50

Regular £8

Extra Large £10

All Parish Council minutes etc can be found online at <https://ashillparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/> as well as lots of extra community information
The Ashlink is also published online at <https://www.ashlink.co.uk/>

**Ashill Archive Group
Bringing the Past to Life**

If you are interested in researching and archiving the village history or if you have some photographs and documents related to Ashill over the years please do get in touch or come along as we always welcome new members, young or old. Two hours is all it takes and you get to find out interesting facts about our village.

For more information contact;

Julie Long on 01760 622721 or Enid Turner on 01760 440419

We also have a facebook page @avaarchivegroup.

Friday Luncheon club

If you are on your own, need a cooked meal once a week and would like to socialise with people then contact the **organiser Denise Hucklesby on 01760 441514.**

If you normally attend but are unable to come please let Denise know by Wednesday afternoon.

We are also always looking for volunteers!

MESSY CHURCH CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Saturday 13th December 10 a.m. till 12 Noon.

Usual fun and crafts etc.

All children with an adult or all adults with a child most welcome.

FREE TO ALL

Further details from Ann Bunn 01760 440150

14th December 5-8.30 Christmas concert

featuring Ashill Harmony Choir

Tickets £6 each, children half price. A small buffet included. tea/ coffee soft drinks. Raffle. Come and join us for a pre Christmas celebration. Proceeds shared between Community centre and Ashill Choir

Tickets from Dee
07926917409



Ashill School | 14/12/2019

Ashill Community Gardens

The barrel in front of the Call In has now been replaced and has been planted up with spring bulbs along with all the other barrels. This year we have used a mixture of bulbs not just dafodils. Let's hope we have a good display in the spring.

We are planning to put in some winter flowering pansies as well to add some colour.

If you have any comments on the barrels or would like to donate some plants in the spring please contact Sue Cloud on 07880 508930: Jean Skeggs on 01760 440142 or Ruth Day on 07410933957

St Nicholas Church



Incumbent - Revd Patrick Morrow 01760 330258.

Churchwardens – Wendy Peckham 01760 440952

Margaret Barker 01760 751771

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

Sun Dec. 7th 9.30 a.m. Lay Led

Sun Dec.14th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sun Dec. 21st 9.30 a.m. Lay Led

Sun Dec. 21st 4 p.m. CAROL SERVICE

Wed Dec. 24th 6 p.m. **FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S, OVINGTON**

11.30 p.m. **MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST GEORGE'S SAHAM TONEY**

Thu Dec. 25th 9.30 a.m. **HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

Sun Dec. 28th 10.30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion at **OVINGTON**

Sun. Jan. 4th 9.30 a.m. Lay Led

Sun Jan 11th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sun Jan 18th 9.30 a.m. Lay Led

Sun Jan 25th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

THANK YOU to all who supported our Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival. A total of £1420.10 was made for the Roof Appeal.

The churches are now a presence on Facebook: "The Ashill Group of Parishes, Norfolk".

CHURCHYARD BURIAL SPACE.

As space for burials in St Nicholas Churchyard will become unavailable in a few years time the Ashill PCC have applied for a faculty to re-use areas which have been used in the past. In accordance with Diocesan Guidelines these are areas recorded over 75 years ago. No existing monuments or gravestones will be removed.

If you wish to object to this proposal you should send a letter stating the grounds of your objection to The Diocesan Registrar, at Birketts LLP, Kingfisher House, 1 Gilders Way, Norwich, NR3 1UB.

Please contact Wendy Peckham 01760 440952 or Margaret Barker 01760 751771, Churchwardens, if you want clarification of the actual areas to be considered.

Christmas Thoughts

My first Christmas in the parishes. How I am looking forward to it! I am one of those Christians who, if pressed, would say that Holy Week and Easter are even more important. But there is no doubt that Christmas takes us close to the heart of Christian faith – if you engage with the narrative. God longs to be with us, and so comes to us, to us as we are - always in danger of pushing out people who don't fit in. So no palace, only a stable for the baby Jesus.

Except you probably know the Bible doesn't mention a stable; it just talks about a manger, a trough. This might have been in a cave, or in someone's house (humans and animals slept in close quarters). It is surely a tradition in its own right - debunking the Christmas story - no stable, no three kings, and especially no reason to think it all happened on 25 December 1 AD. Indeed, there'll doubtless be new articles saying that the Church hijacked a major pagan festival. Evidence for this is... partial at best. True, the Romans thought of 25 December as the winter solstice. But there are no grounds to think that pagans celebrated it (25th, specifically) in grand fashion, or that it marked a god's birthday. That is to say: pagan celebrations did come about, but they are not recorded as earlier than the Christian ones.

So why 25 December? There is another theory. We know that 25 March was already well established by the 4th century, as the Christian Feast of, well, Just About Everything. It was Good Friday and Easter day rolled into one, and it also marked the day of Jesus' conception (so he died on the day his story began). 25 March is of course still Lady Day – the Feast of the Annunciation to Mary. I suspect you can see where this is going. 25

December is exactly 9 months from this embedded date. It really might be that way round.

Whether that convinces you or not, I and the churches wish you the joys of the season. And perhaps try out this idea in a lull in your celebrations: God longs to be with us, and so comes to us, to us as we are.

Patrick Morrow

Jupiter

Jupiter was the king of Roman gods, and the planet Jupiter is the king of the planets.

It is the largest planet in our solar system, and its diameter is 11 times that of the Earth and its mass is 300 times that of Earth. In fact its mass is twice that of all other planets added together. It is still dwarfed by the mass of the Sun; it is 1/100 that of the Sun.

The atmosphere is mainly gaseous, predominately hydrogen and helium. The dynamics of the atmosphere is complex, but this complexity produces bands across the whole of the planet as well as the persistent large red spot which is a giant storm in the atmosphere.



The moons of Jupiter are multitudinous, there are 95 officially named, but 4 are easily seen from Earth, first seen by Galileo in March 1610. They are: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

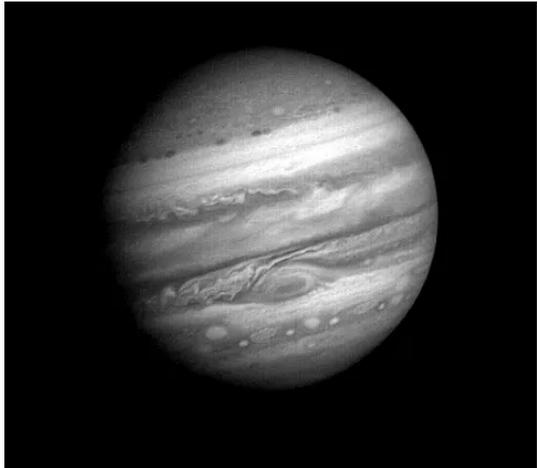
Io orbits the closest to Jupiter and because of Jupiter's massive gravitational field Io is very geologically active, having 400+ active

volcanoes in its rocky surface. It also has a very thin atmosphere of mainly sulphur dioxide.

Europa is the smallest Galilean moon,. Its surface is mainly water ice. There is a possibility that tidal forces from Jupiter would keep an ocean of water below the surface.

Ganymede is the largest moon in the solar system (bigger than Mercury), it probably has a molten iron core, and it is the only moon in the solar system to have a magnetic field.

Callisto is not very dense and is the most heavily cratered body in the solar system. The biggest crater is called Valhalla and is 3000km wide. Callisto also may have a watery ocean.



In December Jupiter is to be seen in the east, rising from about 6pm and being fairly high due east at 8pm.

You can see the Galilean moons of Jupiter with a reasonable pair of binoculars and somewhere to steady them.

The Leonid meteor shower peaks on the 17th November with about 15 meteors an hour.

The Geminid meteor shower peaks 12/13, 13/14, and 14/15 of December with about 120 meteors per hour.

The Ursid meteor shower will peak 14:00 GMT on 22 December with about 10 meteors per hour.

Albert Day

Ashill Welfare Charity Trust

History :- Ashill Welfare Charity Trust, informally known as “The Trustees” was formed in its present state in September 1980. It resulted in the bringing together of 4 village charities.

Poor’s Allotment, originally the Common. Assigned to the village in 1899
Fuel Allotment, land at the Eastern end of Common Road known as the Town Land. Granted by an enclosure in 1786.

Goose Green, including the pond and call-in, granted to the village by the Charity Commissioners in 1947.

Charity of money gifted by Reverend Bartholomew Edwards.

Who are the Trustees

The trustees, in line with our constitution, consist of 5 competent persons. 1 ex officio, the incumbent of the Parish of Ashill. 2 nominatives, appointed by the Parish Council and 2 co-opted appointed by the other trustees. Other than the incumbent the rest of the trustees retire by rotation. The nominative ones serve for 4 years, the co-opted for 5 years.

Our duties

We are charged with obtaining the best profit possible with the assets we have been left with. Having received the money from these various charities, we have; after making sure we have maintained these assets, to use it for the relief of the poor of the village.

How we distribute it

We use the money to help any villager we become aware of who is struggling financially, we do this discretely by holding the meeting without public present. We also donate a Christmas grant to any parishioner over 85 who has lived in the village for at least 5 years, and who apply for it.

Our future

A large part of our income comes from the Town Land rents and the government. We run the common under a Countryside Stewardship scheme. Sadly, the grant for this is diminishing by 20% a year. With the lack of clear direction in where agricultural support is going to be aimed, we have very little idea of how much we will receive in the future. The amount of funds we will have to distribute in the future will of course dictate where we can donate it.

Richard Leighton

Ashill Book Club The Very Best Gift

The Ashill Book Club (or ABC as us members fondly call it!) is celebrating its second anniversary this month. As someone who always has an enormous 'to read' pile and bookcases in every room, (including the loft and the shed), I eagerly look forward to our monthly meetings, and gratefully acknowledge that the launch of the ABC in November 2023 meant my inner bibliophile has found a home! This auspicious milestone has reminded me of a gift from my Dad many years ago that transformed my love of books and reading into a real passion.

I didn't grow up in a bookish household: there were barely any books at home, and certainly no dedicated reading spaces apart from my bedroom. I was considered the 'bookworm' of the family, and my Mum's opinion of my preoccupation with books was generally quite low, suggesting that I should be spending time with friends instead, and getting more fresh air. My dad, on the other hand, indulged me, and when I was about 8 years old he bought me a very, very special Christmas present.

Unknown to me, (or, as it turned out, to my mum), my Dad had joined a book club, and had been squirreling away several books a month to present to me at Christmas. This wasn't a gift from Mum and Dad: this was a gift from my Dad to me.

I felt so special, seen, and understood, and more than a little overwhelmed. 36 classic books, lavishly bound in leather, with gold foil stamped titles on the spine and front covers, gilt edging, and book mark ribbons. The smell of them, the heft of them, the promise of what lay within those pages, all ignited my imagination. How was I ever going to choose which to read first? I was 8. They were beautiful and extravagant, very grown up, and I absolutely loved them!

Over the years reading has transported me to other worlds, introduced me to new ideas, and helped me to walk around in someone else's shoes for a while. Calmed and comforted me, called me to action, challenged and affirmed, made me laugh out loud, made me cry, and, at times, frightened the living daylights out of me. It's helped me find friendship, such as the wonderful group of women at the ABC, sharing our love of all things books, and much, much more. This "uniquely portable magic of books", (Stephen King), has most certainly been the best gift of all.

Thank you Dad!

Let us know if you would like to join Ashill Book Club or have access to our online WhatsApp Group called 'Reading Something Terrific?' to give and receive great reading suggestions. Contact for details.

Elaine Pegley



The Editor missed this out of the last issue. SORRY!!

Ashill Fete

Firstly I'd like to start with saying a huge thank you to all the volunteers who made the village fete a success again this year! It was so lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves on the day, some local, some travelled in for the occasion! Whilst I was personally very busy down at the dog show with that being a roaring success again I didn't even have time for an ice cream but heard good things!

Taking on board some feedback we've had ready for next year, praying for yet another year of good weather on the day as we were blessed with this again!

Final total raised is: £1979.89 which is amazing!! It has been a great fundraiser again this year ready for vital work needed to be completed in the community centre to bring upgrades and repairs where needed!

Thank you from me and all of us on the community centre committee!!

Megan Colley AKA Megs Mutts

Herman Returns!

Our Tortoise Herman, went missing in April from the Pond Loke area. Many hours were spent walking the surrounding fields, posters were put up around the village, a facebook entry and even a drone searching neighbouring properties, but to no avail.

The grass grew long and the combines moved in, and I feared the worst. But then in August, almost five months later, I had a phone call from the lovely Sam and his family from Rougham, who had spotted Herman near the road by the church as they drove through Ashill. After door knocking they decided to take him home and Sam joined the Ashill facebook page and this is when everyone joined in to help return Herman to us. After a good wash and several days of eating, he settled back in at home and will eventually get used to having his tracker on when outside, just in case he manages to find another escape route !

For those that looked out for him on their walks around the area, posted on facebook and of course Sam and his family who went out of their way to ensure his safe return, can't thank you all enough !

Pip & George
Pond Loke



Seasonal Fun at the Community Centre

Saturday 29th November 10am - 2pm Christmas Craft Fair

Tuesday 9th December - Christmas Bingo! Doors open 7pm, for a 7.30 eyes down.

Sunday 14th December - Christmas Concert, music from the Ashill Choir, nibbles and refreshments. Ticketed event, available to purchase from Dee Bolton. 5pm - 8.30pm
£6 adults, £3 children.

New Year's Eve party - ticketed event available from Dee Bolton. £6 per adult, £3 children.

A Ringing from the Tower

As some of you may have heard, on the afternoon of 4th October St Nicholas Church Bell Ringers hosted a striking competition. The idea is for novice bands to compete for a prize of 3 different shields; one awarded in each section. The three sections consisted of ringing Rounds, Call Changes and a Method; we chose to ring Plain Bob Doubles. Ashill entered three teams, one in each section. Judges evaluate each performance based on accuracy, striking rhythm and following the rules. The rules: to enter the first two rounds, you only require one novice in your band. Ashill entered a band of 6 novices with our newest only a couple of months in, so to compete was not something any of us thought we would be able to do together. Although we didn't win, our novices received some very positive comments from the judges and can be very proud of their progress



together. It can take anything from a few days to months to learn how to handle/ring a bell, but months and years of practice to understand the art of bellringing, let alone master intricate methods, some of which are a mathematical conundrum. There were 16 bands from across the county on the day, and in the region of 80 people. The buffet and hot drinks flowed endlessly which was much needed as it was a cold and rainy day. Our thanks to all who helped before and after the event, for providing baked goodies and Diane and Margaret who manned the kitchen throughout the day. **Sandra Whinnett**

ASHILL HARMONY CHOIR SPREADS JOY AT BUCKINGHAM LODGE

On Saturday 27th September, Ashill Harmony Choir had the absolute pleasure of performing at Buckingham Lodge Care Home - and what a truly uplifting afternoon it was!

From the very first note, the room was filled with smiles, toe-tapping and joyful voices as residents joined in with a medley of much-loved old-time favourites. The atmosphere was heart-warming, and it's safe to say that everyone left with spirits lifted - including us!

Our wonderful choir master Richard Winch led the performance with his usual charisma, warmth and quick wit, and we were also brilliantly accompanied on piano by Will Haviland, who kept us all on track with his

musical talent and a fabulous rendition of Carole King's "You've Got A Friend". Together, they created an atmosphere of joy and connection, many of our members said it was our best event yet.

As always, we're more than happy to perform at local care homes, events and community gatherings. Music is for sharing, and we love nothing more than bringing joy through song.

We are performing Christmas Songs at Fountain of Life Church on Sunday 7th December and once again are supporting the Carol Concert at St. Michael's Church in Great Cressingham on 11th December.

Our choir is looking forward to performing at the Ashill Christmas Concert at the Community Centre on Sunday 14th December and have been busy rehearsing our festive repertoire!

If you'd like to know more about joining the choir or inviting us to sing at your event, please contact Sue Cloud on 07880 508930 or find us on Facebook at Ashill Harmony Choir.

Karen Usher



Useful contacts

Parish Clerk, Jean Sangster : 01760 440383 (only between 9:00am – 5:00pm Mon-Fri)

Chairman Alan Ketteringham: Mobile: 07733 420588

Parish Council Minutes for September and October 2025

Parish Council Meeting held on 23 September 2025 at 7pm. Eight councillors and clerk were in attendance along with County/District Councillor, Mr F Eagle and 7 Members of Public. No declaration of Interest were received. Previous minutes held on 26.08.25 were agreed by all and signed and the meeting was opened up to the public with no questions raised.

County/District Councillor, Mr F Eagle reported that Breckland had been talking about Car Park charges but will have to wait and see what happens with local government reorganisation. He also said he would support an advisory notice for HGV's in Church Street and informed the meeting of hazardous-waste-days that were being held at Dereham on 31 Oct – 1 Nov.

Matters arising from last meeting:

Highways – The hump in Watton Road is marked for work to be carried out. HGV signage Church St. as it is only advisory but agreed that a video should be sent to Highways to show the parking. Lowering of Kerb opposite Comm. Centre however informed that there are problems with the ditch opposite. Further investigation required. Agreed to report the state of pavement from shop to Green Lane. Notification that Ranger Service is back in operation.

Play Equipment – Unchecked. It was agreed that some work is still required and will be carried out in Spring. Repairs for fitness equipment in progress. Proposed to get quotes for replacing the matting under old swings with Tiger Mulch.

Playing Field / Football Club –It was agreed that 20 posts be purchased from Tufts to be installed on southern side of playing field. Small gate spring is no longer working. Clerk to look into replacement. Clerk has now checked the Insurance cover supplied by Football Club and confirms that they have adequate cover. Old goals to be removed shortly.

Community Centre – AB reported that Fete had gone very well and raised approx. £2000-00.

Footpaths – The rail has now been installed to crossing on footpath at top of Ashill Estate but other one still to be dealt with in Uphall Lane.

Police – SNAP meeting held on 14 October at Swaffham Town Hall at 7pm.

Notification of Operation Radium which is being set up for information to be shared regarding crimes. Agreed to sign up for this.

Speedwatch – Details received, team are doing a very good job.

Allotments – Complaint received that taps being left turned on and that children are playing on site. They have been spoken to and Clerk to put notice out to all holders. Question was raised as to charging new holders. It was passed that charge to be made.

High Grove Solar Farm – The walk at Bradenham, followed by meeting. Response to submission on hold till spring as awaiting info from National Grid so connection date held up. PC to register before this goes to Government.

LGR, Devolution Consultation – Further information from Norfolk A.L.C on how things will take place. Breckland are submitting their preferred set up as 3 Unitary Authorities. Local Plan – Call for Sites – No further information at present time. Parish councillors.gov.uk email addresses is being dealt with and also a website. Former Surveyor's Land – AK advised that grant application was successful.

Ashlink – The Editor had sent thanks to JL and Clerk for last reports for magazine.

Wayland Partnership – Book Sale held at Thompson on 22 and 23 Oct. Presentation re carer homes, Data Centre progressing well. Community Job support. This is a one-to-one scheme from Youth Justice Service to help in the Community. Look into helping with cleaning and tidying play area. This is supervised 1 youth to one supervisor. Retirees – Further information had come to light since last meeting and it was agreed this could cause upset and problems in the future so this will NOT be followed up.

Correspondence - Received from NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk, newsletters circulated. NorfolkALC – General Power of Competence Survey to be completed. Breckland – Notification of extension to Material Recycling Facility for next 3 years. Breckland – Engagement Events – 28 Oct Shropham and 3 November Narborough 6.00 to 8.00, Clerk has book 3 places for Narborough.

Planning applications - No new applications and No decisions received at date of meeting.

Finance and Accounts - It was agreed that all accounts due be paid. Current and Business A/Cs circulated and confirmed as correct.

Investments – Clerk advised that 1year investment with Hampshire Trust Bank is due to finish in Oct. On checking rates it was agreed to RE-INVEST for further 1year at rate of 4.22%.

Open to the public – Further information provided re seat for bus shelter and Clerk to follow this up. Reported that hedge on Watton Road very overgrown. Clerk to contact LD. (Highways)

Any other business - Reported that the village Facebook now has over 2000 members. It was also advised that the person renting the Marl Pit is leaving the village shortly and will be giving up the hire of this. Clerk to advertise for applications from village residents for hire for 1 year. This is a Shooting Agreement. Reported that he had received calls about 3 people walking all around the village at night and this prompted complaints regarding the access to 101 and the little response received from Police. Agreed that Clerk write to Police Commissioner and to bring this to SNAP meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm

Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 October 2025 at 7pm. All councillors and clerk were in attendance along with County/District Councillor, Mr F Eagle and 8 Members of Public. AH declared an Interest in Item 6k on the agenda as advised by NorfolkALC. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23.09.25, were passed as a correct record, agreed by all and signed and the meeting was opened up to the public. One parishioner reported that drains are blocked that feed into pond and Trustees will look into this. Two Potholes reported in Watton Road by village gate. A resident very concerned that the developer of Hale Road site is not adhering to the conditions of the planning consent. Clerk has contacted Enforcement but this could be some time before it is investigated. Fabian Eagle to take this matter back to Breckland and he requested that residents take the opportunity to complain to Leader of Council at up-and-coming meetings and online.

County/District Councillor, Mr F Eagle explained the situation with Local

Plan and assured the Council that the refusal to the redevelopment at Abbey Farm in Thetford would not impact on the number of houses required to meet the Government stipulations. He explained that Planning Applications are getting more difficult to 'call-in' and he is trying to get Highways to submit their findings earlier. He supplied stickers for wheelie bins and a new 'SLOW DOWN' sign. These have been passed to Speedwatch Team. FE advised that the County Budget is proposed at 2.99% increase but this is out for consultation. FE intends to ensure that additional verge cutting continues next year from his budget. The question was raised regarding future car park charging and he explained that Breckland were hoping that Swaffham and Watton would either buy or lease from them the car parks in the towns but this is all dependent on how LGR turns out. He explained that there would be Mayor Elections next May and County Council Elections will depend on Government decisions. Resident queried about reporting dangerous dog to Police and he advised that this should be done.

Matters arising from last meeting.

Highways – Work on the hump in Watton Road is due next week and road will be closed for three days. Lowering of Kerb opposite Comm. Centre, approx. cost for this work of £20,000 and if money granted from Partnership Scheme, we would have to find 50%. However, it's now advised that as there are utilities involved there could be additional costs which would not be covered. Clerk to contact Cadent, AW and BT to ascertain costs involved and these will be circulated if received between meetings. Video of problem parking in Church St to be obtained. Pothole outside 15 and 16 The Oaks to be reported. Pothole in Church St. to be reported. Problems with cutting of Watton Road hedge already reported but no reply. The pavement on west side of Green is to receive attention. Cables across road in Hale Road were queried and it was advised that these were installed by RWE for monitoring of traffic.

Play Equipment –Checked. Tennis net and basketball hoops have been repaired. Old goal posts to be removed November. Quotes for replacing the matting under old swings with Tiger Mulch have proved difficult to get and one requires a site visit which will be arranged. Playing Field / Football Club – Stakes southern side of playing field will be purchased approx. cost £105. Installation by volunteers to be organised. Small gate spring – Clerk had

contacted supplier who advised that this should not have broken so soon and gave advice on installation. However, it was suggested that the gate be altered so that it would close on its own and Clerk to check with Inspectors if this is permitted.

Community Centre – Next year's Fete had been discussed at recent meeting and changes proposed. Craft Fair in Nov. Bingo Dec. and Choir Dec. Money raised from events is proposed to be spent on new Stage curtains, new sliding doors and it is hoped to obtain grant towards new central heating system.

Footpaths – Crossing to be checked to see if adequate.

Police – Chair and Clerk had attended recent SNAP meeting and put forward complaints regarding contacting 101. Survey being carried out by Commissioner at the moment and it was requested that residents complete this online. Next SNAP meeting is 12 January 2026.

Speedwatch – No sessions held recently as speed gun broken.

Allotments – Spraying has been carried out and Clerk to advise new applicants that should be ready in two weeks. All rents collected except for one and Clerk is chasing this.

High Grove Solar Farm – CPRE meeting at Dereham Memorial Hall on Thurs. 20 November 2pm – 8pm. Submissions to Government in April but have to register in December. to be able to submit findings.

LGR-Devolution Consultation – Further information from NorfolkALC and reported that MP's have stressed that Parish Councils and Communities views must be taken into account.

Local Plan – Call for Sites – Draft consultation commences 31 October for six weeks and public invited to have their say. Also, meetings will be arranged in market towns and at Dereham Offices.

Parish Councillors.gov.uk email addresses – is being dealt with this and also website. He will make contact with each Member to get set up. Also, Council is instructed to adopt Assertion 10 and create an IT Policy and this will be set up too.

Former Surveyor's Land – Currently obtaining cost for fencing which will be

carried out next year.

Wayland Partnership – No meeting but AK, AS and KK have been invited to Launch Event on 31 October at Dragons Hall Norwich to view plans for Wayland House.

Correspondence - NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk - Newsletters circulated. Breckland Environmental initiative Grant - £1000 granted to Trustees for clearing pond. Kickstart – Request for thoughts on transport needs in village. Clerk to reply. Tree Project – Results and future monitoring. Agreed to register.

Planning Application Discussed PL/2025/1604/HOU for 18 Orchard Close for garage conversion. To be returned with no objections

Finance - Accounts, It was agreed that all accounts due be paid. Current and Business A/Cs circulated and confirmed as correct. Budget: Clerk presented draft for consideration at November meeting for Precept to be set for 2026/2027.

Open to public – No further questions.

Any other business - Clerk advised that the pads for Defib at Call-In are also out of date and it was agreed to purchase further supply.

The Clerk asked if Council wished to hold two meetings in January as there is NO meeting held in December. It was agreed to hold the two – one in first week and the second in fourth week.

The Meeting closed at 09.05pm

Date of next monthly Meeting is 25 NOVEMBER 2025 in the Community Centre at 7pm.

Assistant councillor, Rex



Ashill, Holme Hale & District Garden Club

Website:

Email:

Flowers of the Norfolk Coast

On a bright but windy late October Thursday afternoon, garden club



members were treated to an extremely informative and visually engaging presentation on the flowers that populate the Norfolk coastline. Simon Harrap, a well-known naturalist and was a font of knowledge on the topic. Simon has written books on the flowers of both the Norfolk Coast and also the Norfolk Broads. Simon structured his talk from the edge of the sea inwards, starting with the flowers and plants found on the beach, then the shingle, then the sand dunes and

finally the salt marshes beyond.

On the beach, just above the high water mark, you find plants such as sea rocket with its small lilac flowers, a member of the cabbage family and sea sandwort, both of which have adapted to their exposed and windy environment by developing waxy cuticles on their succulent leaves so as to minimise water loss. Other plants found in this environment include frosted Orache, a silvery leaved annual which sprawls in low-growing patches on beaches, prickly Seawort and Sea Beet, a wild ancestor of beetroot, sugar beet and mangelwurzel, which is a perennial which was first cultivated 3 to 4 thousand years ago.

On the shingle, where water drains very easily, you find flowering plants like Shrubby Sea Blite (*Suaeda vera*), sea campion and sea milkwort. These all possess tiny flowers as they are wind pollinated so do not need the 'flashy or large blooms to attract pollinating insects. It was fascinating to learn that Sand dunes are created by plants trapping the wind-blown sand so that they form dunes initially around a few plants, which proliferate and result in larger sand dunes. You find grasses such as Sand couch grass, which can grow 2-3 feet tall and develop extensive root systems that trap the sand. This is accompanied by Marram grass, such a common sight of the Norfolk sand dunes and with a big root system that further contribute to the development of the sand dunes. Other plants include Sea spurge, a

member of the euphorbia family, and Sea holly an eryngium of the Apiaceae family, with its spiky leaves and blue flowers.

Samphire is a name given to a number of plants found on the salt marshes round the coast in Norfolk. The correct name of Norfolk Samphire is *Salicornia europaea* but is also known as Marsh samphire or common glasswort (the ashes were used to make soap and glass). The name samphire is a corruption of the name "Saint Pierre", the patron saint of fishermen. One can see several species of samphire on the Norfolk coast in addition to Marsh samphire, including rock samphire. Simon covered numerous other flowering plants in his presentation such as sea purslane, sea aster and sea lavender along with other flowers on our coastline in a very informative afternoon for members.

Upcoming Events

All meetings are held at Holme Hale Pavilion and start at 2.30pm. New members from anywhere in the district are always welcome, so come along and improve your gardening knowledge, while enjoying a welcoming environment with like minded colleagues.

Winter magic

As the golden surroundings of autumn fade, we watch winter envelope our environment. Strong winds through November can speed up the cooler days and December can feel an abrupt change. From mid-November through to the end of December is Yule, a time of mid-winter enchantment. As nature fully embraces the time for rest and many animals look to hibernate, our commercial world is in full swing with festive preparations. However, all too often we feel the pressure to conform to an image that becomes far too stressful in this time of celebration, and it's no wonder we feel overwhelmed.

Perhaps by looking at nature's way of embracing the winter months we can have a different approach. December is a time to take stock, perhaps to simplify and sparkle with a deep rooted magic that happens though this month. To fully embrace our home and household and return to the traditions of an age before our current high-pressured lifestyles.

On a planetary level Earth experiences the shortest day and longest night

as the North Pole is tilted furthest away from the sun. We know this day as the Winter solstice, which falls on 21st December, a moment when we can invite the idea of doing less but feeling more. With the longest night we have a few days where the sun rises at the same time before then rising a few minutes earlier each day. This is the depth of winter but slowly the light is returning, the seasonal change is a constant in our lives and provides comfort as we draw one year to a close and look towards the birth of a new year.

Ancient traditions celebrated the build up of Yule and continuing in the aftermath, joy can be found in making things for the home and thoughtfully crafted homemade gifts for family and friends. The simplicity of evergreen foliage is a symbol of life and longevity, decorating slowly and simply with materials from nature provides a mindful appreciation of enjoying the process and our continued attachment to the outdoors.

As Yule ends and January begins the days are still short and frosty mornings become the norm. We see such contrast between the colourful spectacle of Christmas and the greyness of January, again the rush of busyness and demands of self-improvement with resolutions can be overwhelming. If we give this start of the year a chance, we will see a blank slate of whispered potential, there is opportunity and growth, a powerful regenerative statement of the new year. Observing the countryside around us sees the cold stark landscape offering tantalizing glimpses of life beginning to stir, with the plants and wildlife responding to lighter days.

Wrap up and take an invigorating walk to look for the beautiful starling murmuration's along with the Tawny owls, which will be around for a bit longer enjoying the trees on the village green as they perch there at night, their haunting calls echoing through the sky at dusk.

Enjoy the frozen puddles and stop to take pleasure in the winter beauty that frost gives us. Sprinkling a dust of white on the grass and highlighting the wonderous weaving of our arachnids. Snowdrops, winter aconites and crocus produce a subtle display of colour to please our sight, you may notice hazel catkins starting to appear along with the striking red or yellow stems of dogwood in hedgerows.

At times the pace of our world can make it a challenge for us to slow down, both in body and mind. Connection with nature allows us to live in the here and now and winter is a great time to fine tune ourselves to the rhythm nature provides.

Louise Fenwick

A view from Green Farm

After giving this editions article some thought as to what I should include, I decided to look a little bit at what the future, or the uncertainty of that future, holds for agriculture in Britain and probably further afield as well. As a young boy, probably around the age of 6 or 7 the magic of farming and all it entails was already well and truly in my system and from a very young age all I wanted to be was a farmer, and that's probably true of a lot of young people who get to grow up on a farm. A lot of your friends at school probably have farm animals and tractor toys and would often speak about the carpet farming they'd been doing, but as a farm child you lived it in real time, and that bug never really leaves you.

My grandad and my dad had a huge influence on my upbringing, and I would be 'helping' on the farm as much as I could, every evening, weekend and school holiday was spent helping in the loosest possible term, but also learning. Learning the skills and art of an industry which isn't really a job, it's a way of life and a vocation. It was also an upbringing that taught you right from wrong and a respect for the land that you nurture and farm for the next generation, and nothing teaches you to do a job right more, than doing it wrong first of all next to a road and having a stern lecture from a senior family member!

Ultimately the goal was and still is to make the generations before you proud of what you do and the work standards you aspire to, and that's what brings me onto my youngest, Jake. He is now of the age that he is taking a much more active part in the farm, having grown up on it much like I did he's learnt things as he's grown and he's now taking on tasks himself, and it's made me realise what I was like at his age, am I overly critical of some of the work he does? Almost certainly, but that has lead to him being an incredibly competent, and skilled worker and he will go on to be an asset to this farm and the industry.

This does bring me onto the uncertain future of farming at present,

because although he will be an asset and one of a dwindling number of young people looking to come into the industry, I'm not entirely sure what there will be left of it in 10 to 15 years. More and more farms are being sold off and lost, purely because it's getting harder and harder to make it work, fighting red tape that makes it almost impossible to compete with imports that don't have to adhere to our incredibly high standards of production, I understand that the majority of people want convenient and mainly cheap options at the shelves, but on the flip side of that when the farms have gone they will never come back. We are at a crossroads in this country with regards to farming, I just hope that Jake has a future in the industry he loves and that we can look back on this period in future generations as a massive bump in the road that we gritted our teeth through and managed to come out the other side.

No farmers. No food. No future.

Ashley Howell

Green Farm

WHAT'S ON
At The Call-In Centre
The Green, Hale Road, Ashill IP25 7AT (next to the duck pond)
#What3Words for your Sat Nav: ///path.documents.qualified
'MAKE TIME FOR A CUPPA & NATTER
Ashill Memory Café
Concerned about your memory?

Memory Cafe Anniversary

By the time you read this we may have already celebrated our 1 year anniversary of the memory cafe. Where has that time gone? The months seemed to have whizzed by and we've fitted in such a lot of activities and entertainment for our members .

Suffice to say judging by the number of people we now support in our and

surrounding villages that this is a much needed and worthwhile cause . When you start up a club you never know how it's going to go and I would be lying if I said I wasn't apprehensive about all the admin etc. that had to be done to be able to open the memory cafe . There is a lot! Thankfully all the way along I've had fantastic support from all our volunteers and sponsors that have helped to shape the service we now can provide. At present we have 27 members and 10 volunteers (with 3 more potentially starting in the new year)

Our aim was always to provide a friendly comfortable environment where people could come to access info, get advice, companionship and just be with others that are in the same boat as they are. From the feedback I believe we do all these things. There are a lot of people unfortunately that don't have family or friends supporting them and through our club we aim to bridge that gap .

Looking back on the year we've done a lot! From pub quizzes, 10 pin bowling, afternoon tea, chair exercises, bingo sessions, crafting sessions etc. etc. You get the drift . You won't be bored if you join the team! We have also been entertained with a variety of musical acts. All brilliant in their own way Ian Clew, Richard Winch, Elvis (aka Simon Goldsmith) and of course the fab shanty crew " Pot of Gold ". We have had an array of health care professionals join us too ... Admiral nurse, community dementia support advisors and community enablers as well as Breckland welfare representatives to name but a few who have been able to support in their own individual ways.

Our hopes for the future. I think we would all agree on as volunteers it is to keep doing the good work we are doing, keep enjoying being part of what essentially feels like our own little family and keep providing for those in need.

Thank you as always to everyone who supports us but mostly to the volunteers as we know without you all we couldn't run the club. See you in the new year. **Gill Foster**

**The memory cafe is open every Wednesday between 1030 -12pm
A second session is run on the second Wednesday of the month
from 12.30 to 2pm.**

Last session this year is 10th December.

Reopen on 14th January

Grant Aid

Each year Parishioners of 80 years and over (one per household) who have lived in the village for a period of not less than 5 years are invited to apply for an Ashill Welfare Charity Grant in December.

Previous applicants over 80 years will not need to re-apply, but if they feel they no longer wish to be considered for this help would they kindly inform the clerk.

Applications in writing please, to the Clerk, Mrs R Seager, 38 Acacia Avenue, Ashill not that than
1st December 2025.

The amount given will entirely depend on the funds available and the number of applications received.

However, if any parishioner for whatever reason, or age feels that they are experiencing extreme hardship they can also apply at any time during the year, with details to the clerk and their individual case will also be considered.

Ruth Seager Clerk to the Trustees

Swaffham & District u3a

Members will enjoy a Christmas Party on 4th December. As well as copious amounts of food, the musical entertainment will be provided from within our membership.

There will be no meeting in January. We start again on 5th February 2026 when our speaker will be Henry Kilvert who will be talking about the work of YANA – You Are Not Alone – Rural Mental Health Support.

Anyone is welcome to join the u3a. The only criterion to join is that you are no longer in full-time employment and have the time to take part in the activities on offer. We meet at Holme Hale Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Doors open at 9.45am for socialising and the meeting starts promptly at 10.30am finishing by 12 noon. Further details on all the activities covered by Swaffham & District u3a are available on our website: <https://swaffham.u3asite.uk/>

SUNDAYS

Coffee & Chat, 9:30am.

Church Service, 10am. Kids and Youth provision.

All welcome to come and worship with us.

Sunday Evenings:

First Sunday of the month, CLOSER, 6pm, an uninterrupted hour of worship with FOL worship bands.

Second Sunday of the month, HIGHER, 6pm, an hour dedicated to praying for our world, nation, & community.

Fourth Sunday of the month, DEEPER, 4pm, a discussion around tables with video and talk.

TUESDAYS

Open Home Group (Bible Study), 1:30pm.

THURSDAYS

Noah's Ark Baby & Toddler Group, 10am. All welcome, just turn up. (Closed during school holidays)

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Kidz Klub, 10am – 12 noon, For junior school age children.

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Good Companions, 2:30pm, Afternoon tea & entertainment for our more senior citizens.

If you spot anything that needs updating in the Ashlink such as email addresses, phone numbers, times can you please email the editor with the necessary changes.

**Next Deadline for the Ashlink is 10th January
Send content to
glen.ashlink@gmail.com**

Ashill Community Centre Committee

Chair	Keith Collins	01760 441196
Vice Chair	Roger Bolton	07739358180
Treasurer	Cath Ready	075495 393619
Secretary	Megan Colley	07724 849225
Lettings Officer	Anne Beckett	07768 350968
Parish Representative	Andrea Binns	07597631821.
Pre Xmas Fair organiser	Dee Bolton	07926 917409



Village Services

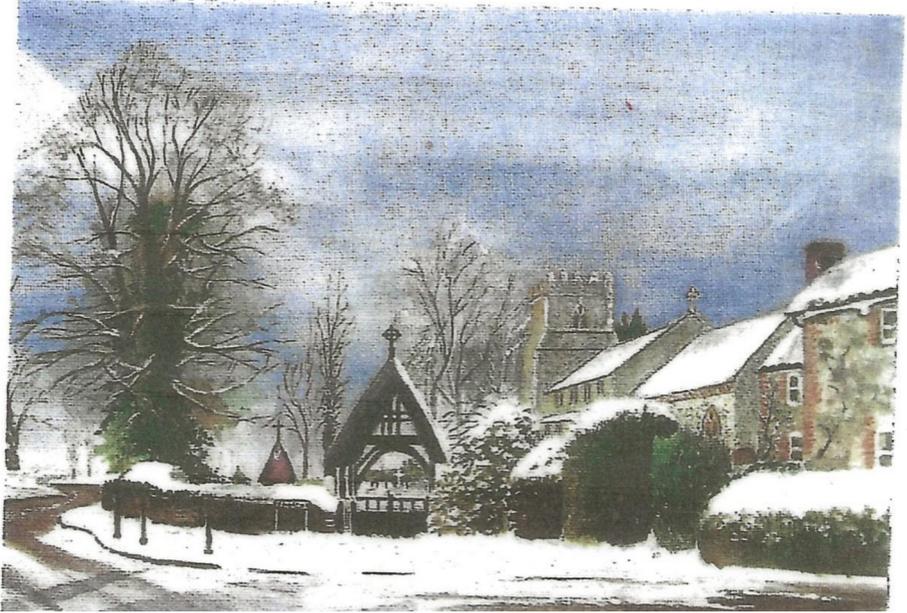
Breckland Dog Training	07795 466007
Breckland Gundog training	07795 466007
Abbey Boilers	Chris Field 01760 440364, 07469 762435
Ashill food and Wine	Village store on Hale Road, open 7am to 8pm 01760 440932 ashillshop@gmail.com
White Hart	Excellent hostelry, https://ashillwhitehart.co.uk/ email whitehartashill@hotmail.com 01760 622190
Angela O Sullivan	Spruced up Stuff; Upcycling 07808 857763
Anna Yeomans	Beauty treatments 07824 882 049 www.treatmentsbyanna.co.uk
Ashill Fruit Farm	Fruit in season, apple juices, farm produce 01760 440 050 Open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm Saturday 10am to 2pm Closed Sunday Monday
John Leggett	Garden Services 01760 440733
Norfolk Arborist	Tree Surgery 01760 724270, 07917 207781
J Dack Electrics	Electrician - 07739514060
Fitness Pilates	Thursday mornings 10:30 - 11:30am Ashill Community Centre Linda on - 07759 886777
Elizabeth Grace Jewellery.	Sterling silver jewellery . Online store www.elizabethgracejewellery.store www.facebook.com Elizabethgracejewellery
Leanne Holmes –	LH Equine Services 07920011628 Leanne@lheguineservices.co.uk
Infinite Aesthetics	non-surgical aesthetic procedures to make you the best version of you! 0774 1270359 infiniteaesthetics@icloud.com
Peddars View Turkeys and Lamb.	Whole or halves supplied to order . Prepared ready for the freezer. Fresh from the farm in Ashill. A Ketteringham. Telephone 01953 885603. Mobile 0773 3420588
Farleigh Electrical Services.	Fully qualified electrician based in Ashill. Fully insured and NICEIC registered. Contact Brian Dorton on 07944 161725.
Tanks Uk Limited	01953 889231 Supplier of water tanks , oil tanks, fuel tanks, bunded tanks. Water bowsers
HG Services Grounds Maintenance	0749 3716801 henry.hgservices@gmail.com
J.Walker Electrical Services	01760 441541 07928016562

Ashill Community Centre

Weekly Activities

Badminton Club	Every Monday 4.30 - 5.30pm
1st Ashill Brownies	Every Monday (term time only) 6.30 - 8.00pm
St. John Ambulance	Every Monday & Tuesday
Badgers	(contact Pat Grout Unit Manager 01362 692241
Cadets	Denise Eaves Nursing Officer 01760 440186,
Adults	Jean Rockett-Woods Youth Leader 07749 870485 or
	Jeanette Callaghan Unit Coordinator 01760
721420)	5.30 -9.30pm
Badminton Club	Every Tuesday (contact Gloria Canham 01760
	440370) 1.00 - 3.00pm
Ashill Parish Council	
Committee Meetings -	Every 4th Tuesday of the month
	contact Jean Sangster Parish Clerk 01760 440383 7.00 -
	9.30pm
Zumba	Every Tuesday (contact Lou Dickson 07866
534087)	11.30 - 12.30pm
1st Ashill Beavers	Every Wednesday (term time only) contact Carol Butters
	01760 440995 or 07956
387308	5.00 - 6.00pm
1st Ashill Cubs	Every Wednesday (term time only) contact Carol Butters
	6.30 - 8.00pm
Golden Link Club	Thursdays, fortnightly Please contact Dee Bolton 01760
	441622 or Sue Cloud 01760 441110
Ashill Harmony	Every Thursday Contact Sue Cloud 07880 508930
Choir	Suecloud42@hotmail.com
Pilates Class	Every Thursday (contact Linda Mellor 07759 886777)
	10.30 - 11.30am
Pickleball.	Thursday Contact Vince Kelly 07786234568) to check
	spaces are available
Coffee Mornings	Second Friday every month ie. Dec' 13th , Jan
10th	10.00 - 12 noon
Mussel Bay	Every Friday Adults only 7.30 - 10.30pm
Racing	(contact Paul Edmunds 01485 540967
Slot Cars-	or James Cliff 07867 515063)

St Nicholas Church Ashill



Carol Service
21st December 2025
4.00pm

**Followed by mulled wine and
mince pies**

