

The Ashlink

April May 2026



Our Community Centre is one of the many important hubs of our Village

Photo provided by the Ashill Photography Club

The Editor's Bit

Every issue we produce I spend an inordinate amount of time proof reading and tweaking the layout. There are always last minute submissions and I do my best to squeeze them in (I have some interesting weather data from Sir David which will feature at some point). Every issue I just know there will be errors somewhere! Reading this one however a sense of a theme emerged – that of community hubs.

Entering the village down the Necton road you pass them all in order – the Community Centre, the village green, the Call In Centre, the school and then, round the corner into Church Street past the White Hart and finally to the church. The more you use these hubs the more you become a member of the village. We are not just a dormitory village for the nearby cities!

I asked for your contributions and I am delighted that I seem to get more each issue. If you think you have an interesting story to tell then you can do as Joan Howlett did, write it down and hand it over! My job is to edit contributions so do not worry about spelling or grammar. I maintain if you can speak you can write!

Ashill Village History

Interested in the history of our village?

We meet at the Call-In on a Monday morning between 10.00 and 12.00. There is always a warm welcome to visitors to come and explore our files and photographs.

If anyone has any photographs or information to share, please contact us.

Contact: Enid Turner 01760 440419,
or e-mail ashillarchivegroup@gmail.com

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/>

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 - 12.00 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

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
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH**

THURSDAY 9th April

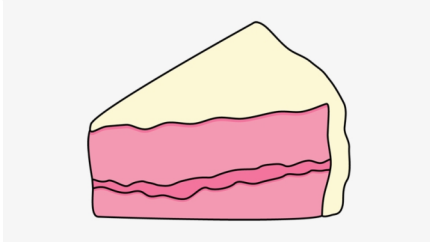
2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Crafts, Fun and games, singing and food

All children with an adult and
all adults with children are welcome.

Further details from

Ann Bunn 01760 440150



**CAKE STALL
ON THE GREEN
SATURDAY 28th MARCH 2026
10 A.M. UNTIL WE SELL OUT
IN AID OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
NAVE ROOF APPEAL**

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.



St Nicholas Church



Incumbent - Revd Patrick Morrow 01760 330258.

Churchwardens – Wendy Peckham 01760 440952

Margaret Barker 01760 751771

Services April and May

All services at St Nicholas' Ashill unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday 1 April, 7 pm,	Night Prayer, St Peter's Merton
Thursday 2 April, 7.30 pm,	Communion of the Lord's Supper, St John the Evangelist's, Ovington
Friday 3 April, 10 am,	Scriptural Stations of the Cross, St George's, Saham Toney (meet at village hall)
Friday 3 April, 2 pm,	Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 4 April, 7.30 pm,	Easter Vigil, St George's, Saham Toney
5 April, Easter Day,	9.30 am, Holy Communion
Thursday 9 April, 2-4 pm,	Easter Messy Church (craft activities for children)
12 April,	Easter 2, 9.30 am, Holy Communion
19 April, Easter 3, 9.30 am,	Lay-led service, followed at 11 am by the Annual Meeting for Parishioners and APCM
26 April, Easter 4, 9.30 am,	Lay-led service
3 May, Easter 5, 9.30 am	Lay-led service
10 May, Easter 6, 9.30 am,	Lay-led service
Thursday 14 May, Ascension Day, 7 pm,	Holy Communion
17 May, Easter 7, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
24 May, Pentecost (Whitsunday)	9.30 am, Holy Communion
31 May, Trinity Sunday,	no service at Ashill: Group service at St Peter's, Merton, 9.30 am.

Ashill, Holme Hale & District Garden Club

Website: ashillgardeningclub.wordpress.com/

Email: ashillholme halegardencub@gmail.com

SOW to GROW - DIRECT SOWING HARDY ANNUALS

The garden club February meeting had seed expert Jason Breed talking about how to direct sow and grow hardy annuals. Jason is area sales manager for Moles Seeds Ltd, a supplier of seeds to the horticultural trade.

Jason started his presentation with a list of pros and cons of direct sowing of hardy annuals. The positives of direct sowing into the flower beds is that you do not need to have a greenhouse. Also you can choose a wide variety of colour schemes easily. You can plant a range of sizes to give a vertical



interest to you flower beds and finally direct sowing hardy annual requires a minimum of plant care once sown. Once they are grown you can harvest as cut flowers for the house or flower arranging. The downsides of direct sowing is that until established the new flowers are at risk of whatever the elements throw at them. Some species can self-sow readily and take over a flower bed, so need to be kept in check.

Normally you would start your direct sowing of hardy annuals around mid-April after the risk of frost has passed and the soil is starting to warm up. You should sow thinly in the first instance and then once you get germination you can do a second sowing to fill in any gaps where germination failed. For the taller hardy annuals like sunflowers you will need to support the flower stems.

Jason then discussed specific hardy annual flowers which were his favourites, either for the colour they provided or due to ease of maintaining. These included Calendula (English marigold), Cornflowers,

Cosmos, Lavatera, Zinnias and Sunflowers.

Upcoming Garden Club Events



Our March 2026 meeting (26th) has Gwenda Kyd presenting a fascinating talk about 'Chemical Warfare (and co-operation) in the Garden' which gives insights into how plants use various natural chemicals to either attract pollinators or repel predators. Our April meeting (23rd) will be given by

horticulturist and nurserywoman Luci Skinner talking about 'Growing Pelargoniums'. The garden club's first outing of the year will be to see the new Tulips at Houghton event in the walled garden at Houghton Hall on Thursday April 30th.

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. If you enjoy the afternoon then you can join the club for just £6 per club year.

Neville McBrien

Ashill Community Gardens

The Committee would like to thank the people who put the barrel in front of the Call In upright again after it was tipped up recently. The plants don't seem to have suffered thankfully, owing I'm sure to their quick action. The dafodils and spring bulbs in all the barrels are starting to flower let's hope we have a good display.

It will soon be time to start thinking about summer planting if you would like to donate some plants for this or have any other comments or suggestions please contact Sue Cloud on 07880 508930: or Ruth Day on 07410933957

The AGM will be held on 20 May 2026 at 2pm. As the Call In is not available it will be held this year at Ruth's house, 13 The Oaks. All welcome.

Ruth Day

ABOUT FITNESS PILATES

I have been teaching for just over 36 years and first qualified as an R.S.A. Exercise to Music Instructor in 1990. Along the way, I qualified in many other fitness disciplines, such as Aerobics, Step, Fitness Yoga, Fitness Pilates, Salsafit, Biomechanics, Meditation and Chair Yoga. I have been teaching Fitness Pilates for just over 18 years in Norfolk and have always aimed my classes at all levels and abilities.

Pilates is one of the most sought-after fitness programmes of the 21st century, suitable for any age or level of fitness. It offers functional exercises designed to be appropriate to the needs of everyday living.

A brief history of Pilates:-

A German called Joseph H Pilates developed the Pilates system. He suffered from rickets and other illnesses as a child and grew up determined to strengthen his body. His interest in fitness was fuelled during the First World War, when he served as an orderly and became involved in the treatment of patients who were immobile. During the 1920's, he developed a series of exercises that used various pieces of apparatus to increase efficiency. He devised exercises that patients could perform in bed. After the First World War he went to America and opened a fitness studio in New York. Although he often used pieces of apparatus in his exercises, his original system was based on mat work. Originally there were 34 Pilates movements, but over the years teachers have brought in their own modifications, including Fitness Pilates.

Fitness Pilates combines "classic" Pilates technique with remedial exercises to offset postural problems offering a complete workout for the body that exercises not just the main muscle groups, but the weaker, less used muscles too. Exercises are gentle and are designed to put as little strain on the body as possible. An excellent preventative technique that will strengthen your body against potential injury. You will learn to maintain stabilization and increase flexibility and strength in the lumbar, thoracic and cervical spine. This in turn will compliment and enhance any current exercise programme, keeping mind and body working in harmony.

So, what is posture? It is the alignment between various parts of the body. Good posture underlies all exercise techniques – it is the foundation for movement.

Incorrect posture allows physical stress to build up in certain tissues, often leading to pain and injury. In relation to posture the two most important fitness components are flexibility and strength. Postural changes are often associated with poor muscle tone (weakness), together with too much muscle tone (tightness) in others. In an optimum posture the hip, shoulder and ear lie in a vertical line. The pelvis is level and the lower spine should be gently hollowed with the inner edges of the shoulder blades approximately 6 – 8 centimetres apart.

Through Pilates based exercises you can increase muscular balance and strength and also improve posture and co-ordination. Other benefits include – less stress and improved concentration, more efficient digestion, increased oxygen intake, better circulation, enhanced immune system, sculpted body, improved flexibility and increased mobility within the joints.

Fitness Pilates focuses on strengthening the centre by teaching the mind and body to recruit “core muscles”, coupled with stretching exercises which are used to lengthen tight muscles, so you can achieve a longer, leaner look and a great shape without creating muscle “bulk”. When the core muscles are strengthened the effects can be very beneficial. They can support the spine, bring stability to the body, protect the lower back, tone the abdominal and pelvic floor muscles and overall Fitness Pilates can help fight osteoporosis and help maintain bone density.

Fitness Pilates combines the suppleness of Yoga with the strength building found in the Gym. Bodybuilders increase their muscle “bulk” by overloading muscles, tearing fibres and causing them to re-build – in the process the muscles become shorter and thicker. We will concentrate on re-aligning and strengthening the body with the emphasis on the lengthening process rather than the shortening.

Fitness Pilates, although influenced by the original teachings of Joseph Pilates, offers simplified alternatives to “classic” Pilates. Naturally you will benefit from these original teachings, but it is worth remembering that this is an integrated form of exercise focusing on fitness and it offers a whole-body workout that challenges your body like no other exercise.

Linda Mellor

The Outer Planets - Continued

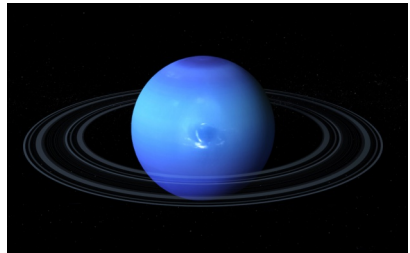
Neptune

Neptune orbits 30.1 times further out than Earth, it is tilted at 28.3° so has seasons that last 40 years each. It has a faint and fragmented ring system. It has the 4th largest diameter and the 3rd largest mass of planets in the Solar System

It has 16 known moons with Triton as the largest, most are probably captured Kuiper belt objects.

Neptune was found mathematically initially based on perturbations in the orbit of Uranus. John Galle first observed Neptune, based on these calculations, in 1846.

Neptune was visited by Voyager 2 in 1989 and it took the first photographs of the system.



Pluto

Pluto is my favourite planet, as a small boy I was fascinated by it. It was a dot of light in a telescope eyepiece. It has been demoted to dwarf planet status and it is in the Kuiper belt

It is in fact two bodies Pluto and Charon. It is a very mysterious object having mountains valleys and plains as does Charon.

Pluto is 1477 miles in diameter and is 39 times further from the Sun than the Earth. It's in an elliptical orbit and is sometimes closer to the Sun than Neptune, it varies from 49.3 astronomical units (au) to 30 au.

Pluto has a thin atmosphere consisting mainly of Nitrogen with some Methane and Carbon. Monoxide.

There are 5 known moons, as well as Charon there are Nix, Hydra, Kerberos and Styx. All names are related to the Greek underworld. The name Pluto was suggested by a 12 year old girl in Oxfordshire in the first place.

The New Horizons probe flew past in 2006 showing us a new picture of the

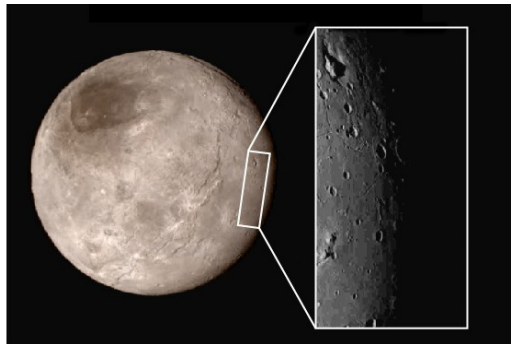
Pluto Charon system.

Below are photographs of Charon, the second is a true colour picture of Charon with a magnified inset showing a mountain in a 'moat' in the top right-hand corner.

Albert Day



(a)



(b)



St Nicholas Church - photos from the Ashill Photographic Club

ASHILL WHITE HART

01760 305922

Fri 20th March = Irish Night with "The Great Outlaws" 8pm

Fri 3rd April = Karaoke night with DJ Dave

Sun 5th April = "Electric Acoustic" 5 - 7pm

Mon 13th April = Charity Bingo

1 - 4pm for Memory Cafe. 8pm for everyone

Sat 2nd May = Disco 8pm

Mon 25th May = "Ska Souls" 2 - 4.30pm

Sat 27th June = "Harley Street" 2 - 4.30pm

OPEN LATE FOR ENGLAND V PANAMA 🏏

Sat 4th July = Live Band "Mix Tape" 8pm

BANK HOLIDAY BEER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Fri 28th August = "Glamtastics"

Sat 29th August = Barn Dance

Sun 30th August = 80s Soul with DJ Dave

Mon 31st August = "Harley Street"

ASHILL WHITE HART

**Tues and Thurs -
Seniors Menu**

**Tues Weds Thurs -
Any two classics £27.50**

**Fishy Friday -
Two fish & chips £24**

**Steak Night -
Last Tues of the month**

**Quiz - every other
Sunday**

First Steps Pre School

First Steps is an inclusive, safe, caring and happy Christian environment where all children can learn, play and develop as individuals. We are a small pre-school, open during term time 9-3pm Monday to Wednesday and Friday. We are an Ofsted registered provision and received GOOD from Ofsted in May 2025. Our vision is to 'inspire a generation to learn to love and love to learn'. To see what we have been up to, search 'First Steps Pre-School, Ashill' on Facebook.

For more information contact: supervisor@firststepsashill.co.uk. 01760 447444, <https://firststepsashill.co.uk/>

Useful contacts

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

Chairman Alan Ketteringham: Mobile: 07733 420588

Goose Green

It has been noticed that more families and people are using the Green, especially in the Summer months which is lovely to see.

It has been suggested that two picnic tables (similar to those at the Community Centre) would be of benefit.

If there is any organisation or individual who would like to contribute to this please contact the clerk, Ruth Seager, 01760 440252 .

The Trustees would also like to point out the area between the young trees has been planted as a wildflower area and if you could avoid walking where the patches of wild the flowers grow it would be appreciated.

Would the person wh erected the flag on Goose Green near the “Tommy” to commemorate Remembrance please remove by the 30 th April otherwise the Trustees will take steps to have it removed.

Ruth Seager

1st Ashill Brownies

Brownies



Congratulations and Well Done Izzy!

You have achieved completing a very special award in Brownies, by finishing all 6 theme awards and a final challenge. You were given the opportunity to put everything you’ve learned into practice and did something for you and your Brownie friends before leaving the unit. You are a star and will be sorely missed.

1st Ashill Brownies meet on a Monday evening, term time only, 6:30pm until 8:00pm at Ashill Community Centre, Hale Road, Ashill, IP25 7AX.

If your daughter is aged between 7 and 10 years and would like to join our organisation, why not register them on the Girlguiding website, and book an evening to meet the other brownies and see what they get up to!

Emily Miller, (Little Owl), is the Unit Leader of 1st Ashill Brownies will be in touch to arrange a convenient date.

Joanne Oxborough

“I used to go to church, but

... then I fell out with God;
... then life took over, and I felt I couldn't find the time;
... then I couldn't make sense of it – I mean: look at the world!”

I've been your priest-in-charge for over a year now. The villages are friendly, no question about it. I am used to spontaneous conversations as I walk down the road. These are often about the weather, as is right and proper. But messages like those above have been a distinctive feature. It has been striking how quickly people have cut to the heart of things, and spoken of their spiritual pasts and presents.

You won't find me – ever – standing on any street corner and shouting out Bible verses. Even if you come to Church, I won't set out to persuade you to believe what I believe. There is a line in 2 Corinthians which always moves me (2 Cor 1.24). I know it best in a German translation, because I read that Pope Benedict XVI quoted it, way back when he was first made priest. It says: “We are not masters of your faith, but servants of your joy.” I see my priestly role in that way.

In that same spirit, it does seem to me that there may be people in the villages who'd be up for a meeting to talk through, say, the things that really irritate them about God, and/or the credibility of the Christian story, and/or, well, how to find sustaining hope and meaning.

You'll have guessed I am asking if this is you. Would you like to at least have a taste of an Enquirers' Group? It would be a chance to have an unpressured and open-ended discussion, with plenty of refreshments. I promise no expectations that you'll end up a committed churchgoer. I may hope that your perspective - and the perspectives of the Christians among us, and not least me - will be enriched by the encounter.

I am not at the stage of having a date, time, or location yet. I imagine it being a “course” of six or so sessions initially, and then, let's see. If this is something you'd like to explore, please let me know.

Revd Patrick Morrow, , 01760 330258. patrickmorrow@live.co.uk,



Adventure Awaits: Volunteer Section Leads Wanted!

Are you ready to inspire the next generation of explorers? We are looking for two energetic and organised individuals to lead our Beaver Colony and Cub Pack. No previous Scouting experience is required—just a passion for helping young people develop skills for life!

The Roles

Beaver Section Lead (Ages 6–8):

Cub Section Lead (Ages 8–10½):

What You'll Do

Plan and deliver a safe, exciting weekly programme with your section team. Encourage young people to try new things and earn their badges. Manage a small team of adult volunteers and Young Leaders.

Ensure all activities are inclusive, supportive, and follow Scouts safety guidelines.

Why Join Us?

Skill Development: Gain leadership, management, and first aid skills that look great on a CV.

Community: Meet new people and become part of a supportive local and national network.

Impact: Directly witness the growth and confidence of young people in your community.

Support: Access full training and resources through the .

Ready to start your adventure?

For more information or to apply, contact Carol Butters at 07743 697574 or visit the scout website for more information.

We are committed to safer recruitment; roles are subject to an application review and background checks (DBS).

COMMERCIAL ASHILL

In the post medieval period, ASHILL originally consisted of two “manors”; Panworth and Uphall. As with many villages throughout history, it seems to have been self-sufficient, with at various times, a brick and lime kiln, windmills, butchers, bakers, blacksmiths, general stores and public houses. Travelling salesmen delivered goods to the village on foot, horse and cart, bicycles and as time passed, motorised vehicles. The original commercial centre was probably an outside market which most likely took place on a field near to the St Nicholas’s Church. Gradually more permanent stalls developed into shops. At a point in time, in the mid 1800’s, enterprises consisted of:

Wheelwright (John Adcock) at the Village Green
Grocer/Draper (Maurice Gardener) at the Village Green
Blacksmith (Stephen Garner) on Church Street
Bakers/Brewer (David Green) near the Village Green
Shopkeeper/Shoemaker (William Twaits) on Church Street
Miller (Samuel Legatte) on Hale Road
Carpenter (William Thompson)
Electrical (J.E Dack TV Electrics)
Post Office

There were also seven farms, three pubs and a school in the village.



Gradually over the years, people were able to go further afield and local demand changed. Some shops closed, a few others opened, but eventually most of them closed and the premises reverted to being residential.

Today we just have a general store, a farm shop, the egg shed and the White Hart.

For more information, come and see us ‘The Village History Group’ at the Call-In on a Monday morning. Anyone is welcome to come and browse through our many files full of pictures related to our village. There’s a cup of tea or

coffee too!!

If there is a historical topic you would like to read about in the Ashlink pop in and let us know and we will see what we can find.

"The History Ladies"

Photos from June, 1990



ASHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2026

in the Community Centre at 7.00pm. Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Chair, Mr R Leighton (RL) Vice-Chair, Mr A Howell (AH), Mr K Kissiedu (KK), Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mrs J Lusher (JL), Mrs A Shepherd (AS), Mr A Thomas (AT), the Clerk Jean Sangster. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Binns (AB), Mr K Kissiedu (KK), and Mrs A Shepherd (AS). Declaration of Interests – AH Declared an Interest in Item on Local Plan. Councillors, Mr F Eagle (FE) District and County Councillor, Mr Denny, (LD) Highways Engineer NCC & 5 Members of Public were also in attendance.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 06.01.26 had been circulated and were passed as a correct record, agreed by all and signed.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – Request for Parish Council to report the state of pavement in Church Street. This will be included on list for Highways Engineer.

MEETING CONTINUED

Matters arising from last meeting.

Highways – Pothole in Hale Road has rec'd attention. Pothole opposite entrance to Lower Homestead Farm to be done in next few days. Potholes to report :- one o/s 11 Dunnetts Close and one o/s 35 Acacia Avenue.

Clerk to arrange meeting with LD for after 16th Feb.

Play Equipment –Checked - gate still to be fixed and painting of posts by working party.

Playing Field – Date for installation of fencing will be arranged. The 'Keep Clear' and 'Disabled Parking' signs have been done.

Clerk has checked with Groundscape that contract is continuing for 2026.

Community Centre – No report.

Footpaths – Crossings still to be checked to see if adequate.

Police –SNAP meeting at Beachamwell Village Hall was attended by AK with JL joining online.

AK had reported the dog attacks at Sporle and delay in response. Police are aware of complaint. Contact can now be made on website for reporting non urgent matters.

Speedwatch - PC Gilluley reported the figures for Speedwatch for Ashill & Necton :- sessions carried out for 55hrs resulted in 250 vehicles being recorded over limit,

217 letters sent and 14 repeat offenders.

High Grove Solar Farm – Meeting now delayed.

Request for Mark Aitken to come along to our next PC meeting was given.

Terry Jermy MP Meeting – AK, JS and JL online attended. Not many Parishes attended but he is very supportive and is meeting with RWE. Report of Meeting on File.

LGR-Devolution – Government now advised that no elections until 2028.

Local Plan – Call for Sites – Nothing to report at moment.

. email addresses - Some Members and Clerk are still requiring assistance.

Report from County/District Councillor – Fabian Eagle

Breckland still remains lowest for Council Tax and have small business funding.

County Council are to receive less from Government and Education funded separately. 18-30 are to get self-employment advice. There will not be a Mayor Election this year. He is very concerned over the Government proposals to postpone the County Council elections this year. He feels it is a democratic right for the public to vote and is unsure what to do. He asked for views from the members of public present and PC members and he will take these on board in making his decision. He advised that he has made provision from his member's fund to provide Community Centre with back-up heating and reported that potholes on the on the A47 to Nth Pickenham have been repaired. The Chair thanked FE for his report. Seat for Bus Shelter – On further investigation the Clerk advised that this was going to cost much more than expected due to delivery costs and she was given permission to go ahead and order.

Community Transport – Clerk still to contact Kick Start.

Breckland Community Land Transfers – Clerk had been advised that there is no land held by Breckland in Ashill so no need to attend meeting.

AW – Reply rec'd regarding road closures and explained that this was for urgent work.

CORRESPONDENCE

NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk - Newsletters circulated.

CAS Insurance Services – This will be looked into and compared with present policy.

FirstAid4Less – Details to be passed to Comm. Centre.

Street Lighting – Recent HSE report has been circulated to Councils concerning Columns being in dangerous condition and Clerk to ask Maintenance Contractors

to check these.

Breckland – Disposal of Car Parks to Town Councils has been agreed.

PLANNING

Notification – PL/2026/0043/PAAF – Uphall Farm Grange Lane. Application to determine if prior approval required for proposed erection, extension or alteration of an agricultural building.

FINANCE (a) Accounts

Accounts Due for Payment for JANUARY were passed for payment proposed by JLG seconded by AT

Current account and bank statements had been circulated and were agreed.

Clerk advised that Community Centre and Cubs had not paid their Invoices for hire of containers and this will be looked into.

Barclays Bank - Clerk had contacted NorfolkALC but had not rec'd a reply. AH had information from Holme Hale PC for Unity Bank but their charges are about the same, so it was proposed by RL seconded by JL that we continue with Barclays and see how things go. Agreed.

Investments – AT felt that these should be looked at twice a year and that Council should consult with an Independent Advisor and this will be followed up.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – Resident asked if the Speedwatch could be held on estates as concerned about speeding vehicles but advised that Police do not allow this.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concern regarding the flag on pole on the Green still being in place and this is a matter for Trustees.

Grit Bin – It was reported that a piece of metal had had to be removed from bin on Acacia but is now safe. This raised the question of the grit bins are being filled by Norfolk County Council and this will be put to LD when visits.

AB had advised that the Defibrillator at the Call-In is damp and has condensation inside the cabinet. JLG to check. Also Post Codes required on both Defibs and he will deal with this as well.

AK to arrange for all trees to be surveyed for Insurance purposes.

The request from Chair of Community Centre to hold a fun fair on the playing field was denied due to potential damage to the field and football pitches from heavy vehicles. An alternative location on the Green was also rejected by Members.

Meeting held on Tuesday 24th February 2026

in the Community Centre at 7.00pm. In attendance: Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Chair, Mr R Leighton (RL) Vice-Chair, Mr A Howell (AH), Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mrs J Lusher (JL), Mrs A Shepherd (AS), Mr A Thomas (AT), the Clerk Jean Sangster, 12 Members of Public & Mr F Eagle (FE) District/County Councillor. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Binns (AB) Mr K Kissiedu (KK). Declaration of Interests – AH Declared an Interest in Item on Local Plan. This meeting was also attended by Mr Mark Aitken who has been working with local Parishes to build a case against the planned Solar Farms.

The latest information on the High Grove site is that it has been put back and the meetings with MP and local Councils have been cancelled. RWE are still doing evaluations and awaiting National Grid. His main concern are routes in and out of the site and this is something that each Parish should question with RWE and also how the Community Funds are to be shared. Mark was asked if he has accepted that this will go ahead and he explained that he was putting forward ideas to keep asking of scheme and questioning RWE on various matters and the longer we can continue along this line, the better it will be for the village with more information. Concerns expressed regarding what the village will get back, and it was suggested by a member of the Public that RWE pay the Council Tax for each house for 2years to compensate for inconvenience. FE assured that the County Council was objecting to using Dunnetts Close as an access and also the concerns of what routes they would use should a road need to be closed. AK thanked Mark for all the hard work he has put in and also expressed thanks to the HOG for their continued work.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27.01.26 had been circulated and were passed as a correct record, agreed by all and signed.

Report from County/District Councillor – Fabian Eagle.

He was very pleased that Government had agreed that County Council Elections will go ahead in May which had saved him having to decide on whether to stand down. Still no decision of how many Authorities there are to be and if there will be a mayor for each. The problem with potholes is being addressed as too wet at moment to make a permanent repair. County Council is supporting businesses but funding for High Street Matters has been put back. Breckland is offering 18 – 30-year-olds the chance for self-employment training and help. He also advised that he is putting some of his members funding into the Partnership Scheme for Ashill

application for kerb.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – A question was raised as to why there are NO basketball nets, and it was explained that these had been broken twice so it had been decided not to replace again. Request was made for a light across car park, and this will be discussed. Query regarding bus shelter – it was explained that new bench is for bus shelter on Green. Vice-Chair of Comm. Centre Committee asked if the field could be booked for a Fete on 5th & 6th September and this was discussed later. Various potholes to be reported and fly-tipping in Cress. Road is still a problem. Parishioner asked if there is to be a footway installed in front of The Willows and if this is included in their plans. It was explained that the new footway that should be installed from new development will join the one stipulated in front of Willows and in front of new houses that Mr Rowe is going to build. This prompted a request from Councillor for letter to be sent to Mr Rowe to ask for his site to be tidied up.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING - Highways – AK, JLG, AB and Clerk had met with LD and all matters were discussed and noted by him. He raised several queries and Clerk will reply by email to these. New matters reported to him were a flooding problem near Womack House, flooding problem near Saham Hall (not in our Parish), potholes in Dunnetts Close again. He confirmed that grit bins have been filled and that banks along Sw. Rd and Watton Rd will be investigated. We should hear in March if we have been granted Partnership Funding for Kerb. A request had been received for a dog bin in Acacia Avenue and also for one on Limes. This was discussed and proposed by AH seconded by JLG that one be sited opp. 8 Acacia and the other on corner of green on Limes near grit bin. This was passed by 6 votes with one against.

Play Equipment –Checked and much the same as last month. Quotes had been received for rubber mulch installation under swings and Sovereign had suggested that ‘wet pour’ be placed in middle as this wears better. Much discussion followed and as Councillors are concerned that the swings may have to be replaced in near future. Consideration to be given as to replacing now with new surface. It was agreed that Clerk get quotes for these. Also agreed to request Play Inspection. Playing Field – Fencing has now been installed on perimeter. New ‘No Dogs on Field’ sign to be placed on edge of field.

Community Centre – There had been no meetings but the question for Fete being held on two days was discussed. The Members stipulated that there should be NO

damage to football pitches and area to be avoided and no heavy vehicles.

Agreement will be drawn up when confirmed by C.C.

Footpaths – Crossings Rails. Still no news but LD was going to pass this to relevant person.

Police – Next SNAP Meeting is to be held on 20th April 2026 at Narborough at 7.00pm

Speedwatch – Mr Street hopes that sessions will recommence shortly.

High Grove Solar Farm – Reported as above.

LGR-Devolution – No further news.

Local Plan – Call for Sites – Nothing to report at moment.

. email addresses – KK to be asked to assist Clerk and RL.

Seat for Bus Shelter – Now on order.

Street Lighting – K & M Lighting has confirmed that visual inspection carried out on each visit. Two lights on The Woodlands require work to be carried out by UK Power and this is in hand.

Community Transport – Still to be dealt with.

Breckland Community Land Transfers – Breckland has advised there is no land in Ashill owned by them.

AW – Clerk has received a quote from another company for water supply to allotments, but Members decided to stay with AW.

Defibrillators – JLG has dealt with condensation problems.

CORRESPONDENCE

NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk - Newsletters circulated.

Keep Britain Tidy - Great Spring Clean – Decided not necessary to join this as our own Litter Pickers do a grand job throughout the year.

Breckland – Notification of company who will be dealing with Food Cadies.

RWE – Notification of route and dates for delivery of transformers to Necton March to May.

Woodland Planting – Request for details of trees planted under their Scheme so they can be inspected. AT to deal with this.

PLANNING

3PL/2021/1429/D - Reserved matters application for Residential development of 8 Dwellings & garages site adjacent The Willows. This had been returned with comments.

PL/2025/1977/CLEUD – Erection of Porch at 4 Holmere Cottages, The Green

Certificate of Lawfulness (existing Use). Discussed with no objections.

PLANNING APPEALS – APP/F2605/W/25/374511 Cutbush Barns, Common Rd.
This has been dismissed.

FINANCE (a) Accounts

Accounts Due for Payment for FEBRUARY were passed for payment proposed by JL seconded by AT

Current account and bank statements had been circulated and were agreed.

Clerk advised that Community Centre has now paid the outstanding bill but new up to date invoices sent. Cubs had still not paid their Invoices.

Investments – AT and AS had looked into asking for Advisor but it had been felt that as PC investments have to be secure this is very limiting so proposed by JL seconded by AT to leave as they are.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – Concerns expressed re Dog Bins.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concern regarding the flag on pole on the Green still being in place and this is a matter for Trustees.

Request for pavement from Call-In to Acacia to be resurfaced will be reported.

The problem with Refuse lorry driving over grass at Call-In had been reported.

Request for a light to be placed on car park at C.C. will be investigated.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – To be held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7.00pm in Comm. Centre.

NEXT MEETING IS TO BE HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2026 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.00PM

Swaffham & District u3a

At our March meeting, Marta Stec from the Snetterton Dogs Trust Centre introduced us to the work of the Trust. Marta was accompanied by her own dog, Bruce, a Goldendoodle, who was very gentle and well-mannered and enjoyed the fuss from members.

Marta took us through the different aspects that the Trust offer. These included arranging foster homes for dogs while their forever home was found, which frees up space in the centre enabling them to take extra dogs; training and advice for those with behavioural problems, and much more. The dogs are well looked after and the Trust ensures that all get the veterinary care they need. Without donations and the many volunteers, the work in their 22 UK sites would not be able to function.

Looking further ahead.

in April we have a speaker from the Phoenix Birds of Prey Rescue who will be bringing along 3 or 4 birds. Jo Daffin will give an overview on the work of the rescue and an insight into these hunters and their habitats.

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/>

Next Deadline for the Ashlink is 10th May 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

A view from Green Farm

After what feels like a very long, very wet winter, things are finally beginning to wake up on the land again at Green Farm. The tractors are back out of hibernation and the farming calendar is shifting firmly into spring mode.

Over the past couple of weeks we've begun applying the first round of fertiliser to the crops. This gives the winter wheat and barley the nutrients they need as they start growing properly again after the colder months. It's one of those jobs that sounds fairly straightforward but relies heavily on timing — the crops need it at just the right moment, and the ground needs to be dry enough to travel without leaving the sort of ruts that would easily pass themselves off as a winter Olympic Freestyle half pipe in their spare time. It's often at this time of year that you remember where that wet spot in a field is as you're hastily reminded by that sinking feeling and then you're forced to make the call of shame for some help, usually from an older, more experienced member of the family who are quick to point out that "you've gone too early" and that "you should have waited for a bit more dry"

Green Farm actually dates back to the 1700's, and while we haven't got anyone still working here 'quite' that old, I would like to touch a bit more on the history of the farm in the next piece, it's always fascinated me while walking around the farm and into buildings that many people have trodden before, to think of the changes this farm has seen over those years. It's a reminder that no matter what we do in our day to day work, ultimately it's all to ensure there is something that we can pass on to the next generation just as the generations before us have done.

Fabian's cattle have been busier than a highways pothole repairer, popping out calves with steady regularity and they're always a lovely sight to see with the added bonus that the early mornings and late nights checking all is ok gives us valuable extra hours to check the various weather apps on the phone that all say something different, and this is invaluable in helping us to make the wrong decision for the day ahead based on said weather.

Ashley Howell
Green Farm

The following is a brief account of village life by Joan Howlett.

Joan sent this in via her daughter in the form of a handwritten account and her daughter kindly transcribed it. I have then further condensed it and put it into a rough chronological sequence so I hope Joan will forgive me if I have left anything vital out or got something wrong. Anyway, everyone has a story and this is Joan's.

Joan moved to the village in 1947 when she was a young girl. The family originated in Essex where her Dad had been a grocer – a highly thought of one as he won a Cadbury's grocery prize which I think was given out by the company to retailers referred to them by satisfied customers. He had been wounded in the Great War and during the second World War he was an ARP warden.

The family bought the village shop situated in the cottages near the church. Joan remembers it had a cellar as well as a lovely paved secret garden near the well it shared with the other cottages. The shop had only an outside toilet at the top of the garden. This was an earth closet (I assume) with two seats – one for adults, the other for children. Later on her Dad added full facilities inside. I note that many of the cottages along the road have had a series of extensions over the years, gradually eating into the garden space.

The shop was bought from Mr Griffin and originally had been a general hardware and clothing store but Joan's Dad turned it into a grocery selling bacon, home cooked ham and a wide variety of produce.

Curiously, the vicar at the time did not welcome them saying “ no Londoners here”. I feel there may be more to this story.....

Mr Harrington (Joan's Dad) was not a man to sit around in his spare time. He was interested in archaeology and collected pudding stones. He also had a fossil collection! Joan was most put out when he gave away some of his best fossils, including a mammoth bone.

As well as all this Mr Harrington was a founder member of the Masons in

Watton, designed the clock in the market place, founded a support network for grocers in the area and was the organist at Swaffham Masons!

The family were made welcome by the village (if not by the vicar) and Peggy Thorpe the dance teacher laid on a party along with Mrs Kemp and tap dancing was performed. At some point the family acquired a TV set from John Dack who ran the electricals store. This made two sets for the whole village. On election night the house would be packed and Colonel Brayne, who owned Glebe Apple Farm would turn up. Apparently much tea was consumed.



Joan and her husband, Russell, were married there. Three of their children were christened there. Her daughter also lives in Ashill and her children attended the Ashill School. Joan's grand daughter was also married at St Nicholas.

Joan is now almost ninety two years young and sadly good friends like Gillian Nelson and Sheila Horn have now passed away but she was still able to reminisce with a few senior citizens at last summer's fete.

As told to the Editor by Joan and Denise

EASTER at Fountain of Life Church HOLY WEEK

Wednesday 1st April, 7pm

LECTIO COMMUNION - a contemplative communion service with simple, modern style liturgy. Including quiet moments to reflect and pray.

Friday 3rd April, 12 noon – 3pm

WAITING AT THE CROSS - a time of reflection and meditation on the Easter story with moments to explore what the cross means for us. Come for the full three

hours or drop in at any time for as long as you can stay. Worship and Dramatised Bible Readings, Activities for Children, Hot drinks & Hot Cross Buns.

Sunday 5th April, 6:15am for 7am
SUNRISE WALK AND SERVICE - at St Mary's, Houghton on the Hill for a short service outside in the garden. We'll be walking from Fountain of Life's carpark at 06:15am and the short service will start at 7am. Some parking is available at St Mary's for those who want to drive. Wrap up warm! Dogs welcome.

Sunday 5th April, 10am
EASTER CELEBRATION COMMUNION - A joyful celebration of the resurrection with communion.

More info on our website folchurch.co.uk or Facebook & Instagram @folchurchnorfolk



The Editor slaves late into the night as the deadline approaches.

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 May
Send content to
glen.ashlink@gmail.com**

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 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 Dixon 07866
534087)	11.30 - 12.30pm
1stAshill 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 Elaine Pegley 07734 111370
	Sandra Voyse 07954 823486
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)

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 305922
- 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](http://www.facebook.com/Elizabethgracejewellery)
- Leanne Holmes – LH Equine Services 07920011628 Leanne@lhguineseservices.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
- First Steps Pre-School, Ofsted Registered Early Years provider, 01760 447444, <https://firststepsashill.co.uk/>

May 6 th .. 11 - 2 pm. Community centre .

Time for a cuppa is an annual event that aims to bring people together to enjoy tea and cake while raising funds and awareness for dementia .It serves as a reminder of the comfort and community that can be found in sharing a warm drink and highlights the need for better care and support for those living with dementia.

The timings allow for people to come and go at what times suit them best ..

Joining us will be Helene our dementia nurse specialist as well as Holly our welfare support officer from Breckland who will be available for those of you needing a chat to discuss any concerns you have .

There will also be lots of great music , a raffle and of course lots of cake ! We have Anna Yeoman with us also on the day to offer hand massages and nail painting for those wanting even more of a treat ! All of our support on the day are people who are gladly giving their time for free which means that all proceeds raised will go straight to our chosen charity .

We would love for you all to join us , come see what the memory cafe gets up to and have a great time . See you there .

Gill 07548626337

