

Ashby Thurton Village Hall Annual Report period 2018 to 2019

The Village Hall Management Committee has a membership of 9.

Elected Members include: Carol Powell (Chair) Ron Phippen (Treasurer), Chris Brown (Booking Clerk), Stephen Read, and Bridle Mickleburgh.

The hall and playing field is used regularly by the pre-school and the church youth groups along with other organisations/activity groups and private parties, short mat bowls started up and Gillingham Live Stock club started booking in October 2018 which runs from October to March on a private hire basis. The new play park has been installed and officially opened on 5th April and many people have been visiting and enjoying the facilities, so much so that the zip wire had to be tightened up after the first week of use. Two new goal posts have been put in and the football area has been maintained by Dick Fisher, we appreciate his time and effort, and because of this rejuvenation of the football pitch Loddon Grass Hoppers under 6's football club will be training from August every Saturday morning and another group for under 9's has requested to play on Tuesday evenings.

The Village Hall Committee has to fund raise to succeed financially. A thank you to Thurton Parish Council who in March 2018 gave a £500 'Lets subsidy' which has gone towards the help of keeping the Village Hall afloat and £400 towards grass cutting.

The committee is always undertaking reviews of associated spend with the view of added efficiency and cost saving. Certain actions have been taken and will continue. The Committee has increased charges for the hire of hall but not for regular users this year.

The committee is grateful to Chris Brown for his continued carrying out essential minor maintenance works voluntarily. This results in a cost saving for the hall. A grant funding of £2,000 from Tesco Bags of Help was used towards our new kitchen which has been installed and finished in time for the autumn 2018 term. A big thank you to our local craftsmen who worked tirelessly through August and those that dismantled, painted and everything else that needed doing to get the job done. The Committee continue to apply for grant funding as there is a lot more that can be done for our village hall.

The 100 Club We managed to have 100 people buy tickets so that enables us to pay out a prize of £40 per month with a £120 super-draw in November. The additional money raised from this and committee fund raising as well as cost savings has helped to keep the Village Hall just viable.

The facebook page for the Ashby & Thurton Villge Hall which has widened the scope of accessibility to

our Information/Communication and News seems to be working we are getting some bookings from this and the new kitchen has prompted interest. We also advertise on the internet HallsHire.com which has brought some enquiries/ booking.

Fund Raising Events:-

May Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz

Nov Hog Roast and Quiz

Jan Burns Night

All functions were well organised which raised much needed funds and were enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Police Cadets came in April to help clear area around the back of the play park.

Ashby & Thurton Playground Project. This group uses the Village Hall charity number and gift aid to access relevant grants etc. In October 2017 this committee was formed and lead by Laura Vaissiere and has raised money by various fundraising events, grants, donations, gift aid etc., the money collected was added to the PARP balance. A WREN grant of £49,575.45 and various other monies donated and fund raising events which came to over £68,000 has made it possible for the play park you see today. The village hall committee continue to support this group in various ways. Fundraising will still need to continue for the upkeep/insurance repairs etc., of the play park and any additional equipment. The Village Hall Committee will continue carrying out necessary maintenance/checks within the park area which are now going take up more of their time on a rota basis.

We are holding a Fete on the 29th June to celebrate 50 years of the village hall. Monies collected on this day will go towards our next phase of the play park which will be the drive and car park. We would welcome as many people as possible to help out in any way or if you have any ideas it would be most appreciated please contact Carol Powell.

The committee would still like Ashby & Thurton Parish Councils to continue to add Village Hall information to their respective web-sites. Members of the Village Hall Committee are thanked for their commitment and hard work to the Village Hall.

Carol Powell

Chair

April 2019