



The Annual Parish Meeting of Cavendish Parish Council took place on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025. In the Cavendish Memorial Hall at 6pm. This took place after the Community Fair event.

**Councillors present: Nick Vosper (Chair), Annette Williamott, Malcolm Halliday, Ted Gittins, Alison Kenny**

**Also present: Kay Garner (Clerk/RFO), County Councillor Bobby Bennett and 25 members of the public.**

**1. Introduction**

Nick Vosper (Chair) welcomed everyone and thanked all the organisations that had attended the preceding Community Fair. It had been a worthwhile event that went very well.

**2. Acceptance of apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Councillor Nicky Welch and accepted.

**3. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2024.**

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. Nick Vosper (Chair) signed them.

**4. County/District Councillors' reports**

County Councillor Bobby Bennett provided a verbal report

**5. Clubs and Societies Reports (Written and available at Community Fair)**

**Attending Organisations with Reports Attached:**

Astronomical Society  
Horticultural Society  
Bell Ringers  
Bowls Club  
Cavendish Care  
Cavendish Koalas  
Cavendish Magazine  
Cavendish Pre-School  
Illuminators

**Attending Organisations (No report):**

Cavendish Community Association  
Community Police

**Non-Attending Organisations – Report Submitted and Attached:**

Sports Club

**6. Chair Report**

The current Chair (Nick Vosper) led the thanks for all the hard work and immense contribution the former Chair (Malcolm Halliday) had made during the 7 years he has held the role. All in attendance supported this with a round of applause.

Malcolm Halliday then read out his report as the Chair for the previous year.

(Attached)

**7. Financial Report**

The Clerk/RFO (Kay Garner) supplied a report of the previous financial year.

(Attached)



8. Any other village issues raised by residents (Residents are any persons registered as local government electors for the Parish)

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.25pm.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical strokes followed by a horizontal line that loops back to the left.

(Chair)

Dated:

30/5/2026



Cavendish & District Horticultural Society  
Report for Cavendish Annual Parish Meeting 31 May 2025

2024 was a year of change for our society, one in which we thought we may have to disband if we could not attract members who could help to run the society. Thankfully we have new blood on the committee and a new Chair who is being well supported by the out-going Chair, and we are looking forward to new challenges.

We had an interesting programme of speakers in 2024 including a fabulous talk by Lucy Skellorn who holds a national collection of irises, one of which is now flowering happily in my garden. Cavendish Horticultural Society is also linked to Clare and Hundon groups – the CoHorts - who we joined for a very entertaining afternoon with TV and radio gardener Christine Walkden. The programme for 2025 includes speakers who are returning, for example Chris Wiley who organises the Bury in Bloom event and some new speakers.

Our two annual plant sales, one in the Memorial Hall in May 2024 and the other at the Village Fete, raised vital funds to enable us to continue funding good speakers. Thanks must go to the army of people who work hard in the background setting up events, clearing away and doing all manner of unglamorous tasks. Our other fund raising event was the quiz held in August. This year the quiz will be the beginning of June – everyone is welcome.

There were two visits organised during the year, one to Ark Farm where we were joined by members from the CoHorts group and the other to Kiln Farm Nursery in Kesgrave, which sadly was poorly supported. We have no planned visits for 2025.

Our annual show in August 2024 was held in the Memorial Hall and although a lovely event was not as well supported as we would have hoped. There were fewer entries for the second year running and fewer visitors and the event ran at a loss. The current show committee retired after many years of hard work, for which we extend our grateful thanks. Sadly, however, no-one has stepped forward to replace them and we took the difficult decision not to hold a show in 2025. We hope we may be able to review this in the future.

At the end of 2024 we sadly lost a long-standing member and former Chair of the society, Isobel Clark. She was a fount of all horticultural knowledge which was shared generously and she always had pertinent, searching questions to ask the speakers at the end of a meeting. She is greatly missed.

We are looking forward to the rest of 2025 and into 2026 being just as successful as last year.



## **Extract from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting booklet for 2024**

### **Bell Ringing**

2024 has seen good progress by the Cavendish band of ringers. We now total 6 regular Cavendish resident ringers who are capable of ringing well timed rounds, call changes and plain hunting. 3 of our number can ring some Doubles methods and we are beginning to lead others in that direction. We are fortunate to have regular help from the Tower Captain at St Gregory's on Fridays together with one of her proteges and other visitors on a semi-regular basis.

There was a lot of interest from the public at the Village Fete and we continue to look for additional volunteers to join the regulars. We have been pleased to play at two weddings in 2024 and have received kind comments. We are grateful to have received guidance from an expert on Bell maintenance from the Guild, on the difficulty we experienced with the unevenness of the rope travel on several bells. It turned out to be the pulleys in the Bell Chamber, two for each of the six bells, with four sets of two being very badly worn. We arranged their replacement with Taylors and Sons in Loughborough, which has made things a lot better. Two of our number have now been on a Bell Maintenance course. The originals probably dated from 1930 when the bell frame was replaced, and a tenor bell was introduced in a major undertaking. I would like to thank the band for their commitment to Sunday service ringing. It is, of course, the reason for our existence and it is a very rare Sunday when we cannot ring for Service.

**Chris Ward –  
Tower Captain**



**CAVENDISH BOWLS CLUB**  
**COMMUNITY FAIR & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**31.05.2025**

**Cavendish Bowls Club have taken part in two leagues over the 2024 season and had success in the local Steeple Bumpstead Bowls League with a win in the pairs, second place in the triples, and third in the North Essex County Bowls Federation.**

**Unfortunately the decrease in member numbers has forced us to reduce our playing teams to only one in the SBBL triples and Federation triples for the 2025 season. We still enjoy our Wednesday evening club nights, weekend trophy games, inter-club knock out games and monthly bacon roll ups.**

**The bowls club has been involved with community events throughout the year and have benefited from funds raised at the monthly quiz, open gardens and fete. The members have also been fund raising to ensure the building of our new club house will progress. The events have included, Robbie Gladwell music afternoon, Shanty Folk Singers, Linton Jazz Big Band , Snail Race evening and coming soon Big Band Christmas Concert. Generous gifts from private sources have also boosted these funds, soon to be spent on completing the roof and making the structure weather proof.**

**As a club we are well into our 2025 season, playing in rain and shine, with prospects of achieving good results again this year.**

**Jacqui Scott-Burgin (Chairman)**

**28.05.25**



## Cavendish Care

2024/2025

Cavendish Care has had a reasonably busy year. We are still transporting Cavendish villagers to Doctors, Dentist and Hospitals together with trips to any of the local supermarkets as requested. We paid our volunteer drivers £956.00 equalling a total of 1912 miles.

Various outings were organised including a coach trip to West Suffolk College for lunch and a Christmas lunch at the Bull Hotel Long Melford.

Coffee mornings were also arranged with care not to interfere with the Coffee Wagon or the Wednesday Social Club held at the Memorial Hall.

On the downside we could really do with more involvement on the committee, we could also do with recruiting more volunteer drivers particularly younger people for both situations.

It should be noted that Cavendish Care is not just for the senior members of the village but for all the residents of Cavendish.

Thank you



## **STOUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**

During this year we have looked to revitalise the society, assisted by Community funding. We have been able to offer a full programme of ten speakers. The topics have been varied and diverse with subjects including – “Myths about the Moon landings”, “Jupiter”, “latest astronomical research at the British Antarctic Survey”, “the Sun”, “the Orwell Observatory”, “New Horizon mission to Pluto” and “Astrophotography presented by the UK’s leading astrophotographer”.

This has created results. We have seen a gradual increase in new attendees, culminating in very good attendance at the April and May meetings. With a full calendar for the next 12 months hopefully this increased level of interest will continue. We have worked to create a new system such that reminders are sent to interested individuals each month, and improve how the meetings are structured.

Glynn Parsley – May 2025



## Cavendish Christmas lights aka Cavendish Illuminators

### Current activity and plans

We continue to upgrade to traditional lighting mainly on and around the Green.

The church tower star has been refurbished, and we will continue to support the Pink Cottages (Hyde Park Corner), the school, The George and the Five Bells with Christmas trees. And courtesy of Willow Tree Farm Shop, the tree in front of the village shop.

Unfortunately, the usual lighting up of the big trees on the Green was interrupted last winter due to the systems old age. New uplighters have been purchased, having benefitted from a grant from the Cavendish Community Association, and work upgrading will commence in the Autumn.

In addition, this year will see the return of the 'switch on; again, in conjunction with the Five Bells and hopefully involving the village school and St Mary's parish church. At last year's event, the Five Bells graciously organised a list of names of potential helpers for this year.

We continue to fund raise, mainly by reintroducing our annual dinner- always well supported, having a Bric a Brac stall at the Fete, donations from several local residents, including members of the Illuminators themselves, and local businesses.

As we have said before, although we have been joined by some younger members, the groups original members are ageing and continue to fund raise but what is becoming increasingly difficult is the physical side, particularly in the winter months. There is an increasing need for younger legs to do the heavy lifting!

With technology moving on, we hope to revamp our current lighting, perhaps even going back to a battery led arrangement, thereby increasing the locations within the village, currently restricted by available power supply.

We have, in the past received grants/monies from our local authority Councillors which we have been grateful for and hopefully this will continue.

We also support other village events, particularly those reinvolving the CCA, mainly the Fete, Firework night and VE Day, and also the church.



## **Cavendish Koalas – Stay and Play Playgroup**

We are a children's stay and play - playgroup established 4 years ago in Cavendish, running from here in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday mornings in term time, 10.30am – 12pm.

We have babies and children attending from newborn to under 5's, who partake in a variety of activities from sensory toys, crafts, messy play, ride on toys, to puzzles and stories.

We ask for a suggested £3 donation per family which includes a drink and snack for the children.

Koalas is a much loved local group supporting young families, parents, grandparents, carers and childminders who all enjoy a chat over a coffee and a biscuit!

We are looking for volunteers to join our team. Ask Emily for further information. We work closely with Cavendish Pre-School who we share a table with today.

Come along and give us a try!



## Cavendish Pre-School

Cavendish Pre-School is a non- profit Charity Organisation (no.1030918), Ofsted registered and rated 'Good'. We are also a Member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

Cavendish Pre-School aims to provide a secure, stimulating and friendly environment in which the children can develop through play. We believe in nurturing the individual child and valuing them above all else.

We have the capacity to have 16 Children and our hours are from 8.30a.m until 3.00p.m. We currently have 3 paid staff members to ensure we adhere to the staff/child ratio.

All Committee Members volunteer their time and have full time jobs. Michelle Lawrence was elected Chair in November 2024 along with 4 other Committee Members bringing the total committee to 9 Members and are committed to the smooth running of the Pre-School.

Our Committee is active in raising funds for the Pre-School and have a yearly planner.

Since December 2024 we have raised £322.00 for our Christmas Raffle, £353 for our VE Picnic Hamper and we have other fundraising events scheduled for July, September, October and December. The Cavendish Community Association also kindly donated £400 towards a much needed storage shed so thank you once again.



## CAVENDISH SPORTS CLUB 2025

The clubhouse has been decorated externally but is in need of major repairs, these are on hold as grants are needed to complete the necessary work.

The main structure of the building still requires work on the gable ends as both are in a poor state. The original timber cladding on the rear and west side date back to 1935 and are in need of replacement. The east gable render needs replacement and new quotes to renovate both end gables will now be needed. There is also a problem with a supporting floor beam which needs repairs or replacement on the west side and the fascia boards also need replacement.

Internally there is an issue with the bar flooring as several areas are collapsing. Temporary repairs have been completed until the sub flooring can be replaced.

Funding will be needed for this work but as grants stipulate a minimum of 10 years on the lease then these cannot be applied for. The current lease on the grounds expires in 2027 and until this is renewed then funding this project will be very difficult.

Both football pitches have had extensive maintenance work carried out throughout the season including weed treatment, fertilization, and verti draining. This maintenance costs the Football Club around £4000 per season, Similar work has been carried out on the cricket square with the costs being met by the Cricket Club.

The grounds are looking very good and have recovered very well after our problems with the grass cutting contractor last year. This situation improved drastically when St. Edmundsbury took back the contract. They have the correct equipment to complete the grass cutting to a standard that is required to play sport on.

The Football club have struggled with numbers for their Saturday side and hope to install a new manager and gain a few more players for the upcoming season.

The Sunday Veterans team (over 35s) have however been very successful and were crowned champions of division 4 (South) in the Norfolk & Suffolk League

The Cricket club commenced their season in May and continue to thrive with their youth events on Friday evenings.

Many thanks to all those who have come along during the season to support the teams and also to the Community and Parish Councils for their support and assistance.

Paul Hurst  
Secretary Cavendish Sports Club



## Cavendish Magazine 2025

The village magazine continues to produce a monthly magazine for the village. The committee all volunteers continue to support each other in their specific roles on the committee to produce the magazine each month. We have a tried and tested streamline operation behind the scenes.

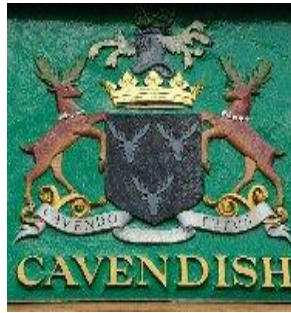
We are financially stable with revenue from the subscriptions and advertising which enable us to produce a magazine with colour pages each month.

We really hope that the magazine will continue for many years to come to provide a resource for the village that sits neatly alongside the village resource that can be found online.

There are two reoccurring themes that arise within our committee meetings most months. One is for new contributors and for new ideas to bring to the pages of the magazine. The second is the uniting of organisations within the village to collaborate when it comes to village resources, events and funding.

I have always felt as the chairperson of the magazine and it was especially true during covid that the village organisations should collaborate regularly in order to help each other out.

Although the magazine has a strong committee we are also aware of the vulnerability of losing members and so would encourage anyone in the village to get involved with the magazine or any other organisation that they feel able to help and support.



## CAVENDISH PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT - MAY 2025

### MEMORIAL HALL

- In September 2024, most of the kitchen floor was replaced after a historic water leak and bad ventilation had rotted a good part of it.
- In January 2025, new vinyl floor covering was laid.
- Last year we also had extensive roof repairs done, mainly to secure loose tiles. At the same time the cemetery lych gate roofing was refurbished.
- Funding for all this work (over £5000) was obtained from the Basil Ambrose Memorial Hall Trust.
- In 2025/26 we are hoping to apply to the same trust for money to enable us to paint the outside of the hall.
- We looked at the installation of Electric Vehicle charging points at the hall, but decided not to pursue at this time as we considered it to be uneconomical.
- The hall continues to enjoy weekly bookings from Koalas, Yoga, Welcome Wednesdays, and regular monthly sessions from various groups including the Horticultural Society, History Society, and Astronomical Society.
- Nicky Welch is the councillor responsible for the Memorial Hall and all the bookings are managed by Kay Garner, our Clerk.

### PLANNING

- We continue to review and comment on planning applications as part of the planning process.
- Councillors Ted Gittins and I are responsible for planning.

### FOOTPATHS

- We continue to monitor the state of Parish footpaths and report to the County and District councils when attention is required.
- Councillor Alison Kenny is responsible for footpaths.

### ALLOTMENTS

- I believe there are no plots available for rent and there is a waiting list at this time.
- We did some rubbish clearance this year and continue to maintain the hedges and margins.
- The councillor responsible for allotments is Nick Vosper.

### ORCHARD

- The orchard continues to be well looked after and remains a valuable asset to the village. George Hardy briefly returned to manage it, but we now have a new volunteer, Harriet North, and we thank her.
- Councillor Nick Vosper is responsible for the Orchard.



## GRASS CUTTING, CEMETERY & GENERAL VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- We now employ our village maintenance contractor, James Munro, to cut all Parish grassed areas. These include the green, cemetery and various verges. Maps can be seen on our table if you are interested.
- West Suffolk Council Grounds Maintenance Dept are responsible for cutting the remaining areas of the village (Peacocks Close, Greys Close etc) and we contract them to cut the sports field.
- Councillor Annette Williamott and I are responsible for the cemetery upkeep, and all grass cutting and village maintenance issues should be reported to the Clerk in the first instance.

## TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

- Unfortunately, the Cavendish Speed-watch team who we supported financially have had to disband - mainly due to lack of volunteers. We thank Stuart Letten and his team for all their hard work over the years, in all weathers, and sometimes under difficult circumstances, for carrying out their valuable work. We are sorry to see you go.
- Please use the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool to report any highway issues you have, such as potholes and flooding. The more people that lodge a comment about a particular issue, the quicker it gets resolved.

## PLAY AREA

- We are planning to replace the ageing play area equipment. This is a long term project but we have started to involve suppliers in the process and will shortly be carrying out surveys to determine what sort of equipment parishioners would like to see installed. A concept plan from one company can be seen on our table. We have received a grant of £5000 towards the project, but this is only 10% of the way towards what we expect to be a £50,000 cost.

## DEFIBRILLATORS

- Kay and myself are designated defibrillator guardians, meaning that we are notified of any possible defibrillator use (we have two units in the village, one at the Memorial Hall and one at the Sue Ryder shop) and make regular checks on battery and pad condition.
- The Memorial Hall unit has had to be replaced this year at a cost of around £1000.

## COUNCILLORS

- This year, Councillor Richard Dawkins resigned. Shannon Craig re-joined and has recently resigned, and we welcomed Alison Kenny onto the council. This all means we have a vacancy, and as of today, I believe we can now co-opt.

## THE GREEN

- We planted a new tree by the play area in memory of the late Jean and Peter Marshall who lived at Western House from 1970. The tree was donated by their children.



- A new bench was installed at the top of the green in memory of Scott Williams and donated by his family.
- The Tommy Soldier Statue was purchased with money donated by the customers of the 5 Bells and installed next to the war memorial. We thank Jeff Barron and Danny Brown for their work in organising and installing.
- The War Memorial is due to be cleaned and refurbished in August. We were originally seeking a grant from the War Memorials Trust to do this, but as the amount of work we were allowed to do was less than we originally envisaged, we have gone to a local company and financed from our reserves. Thanks to Alison for her work on this.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- We have installed a new weather and snail proof notice board, opposite the Bull.
- A survey of the condition of the Waver was carried out last year to determine the amount of silt build-up and whether dredging would be needed. Thankfully this does not require doing. A full report is on our website containing recommendations as to how to keep the pond healthy.
- Mr Kebab has gone, some lament his passing and others rejoice!

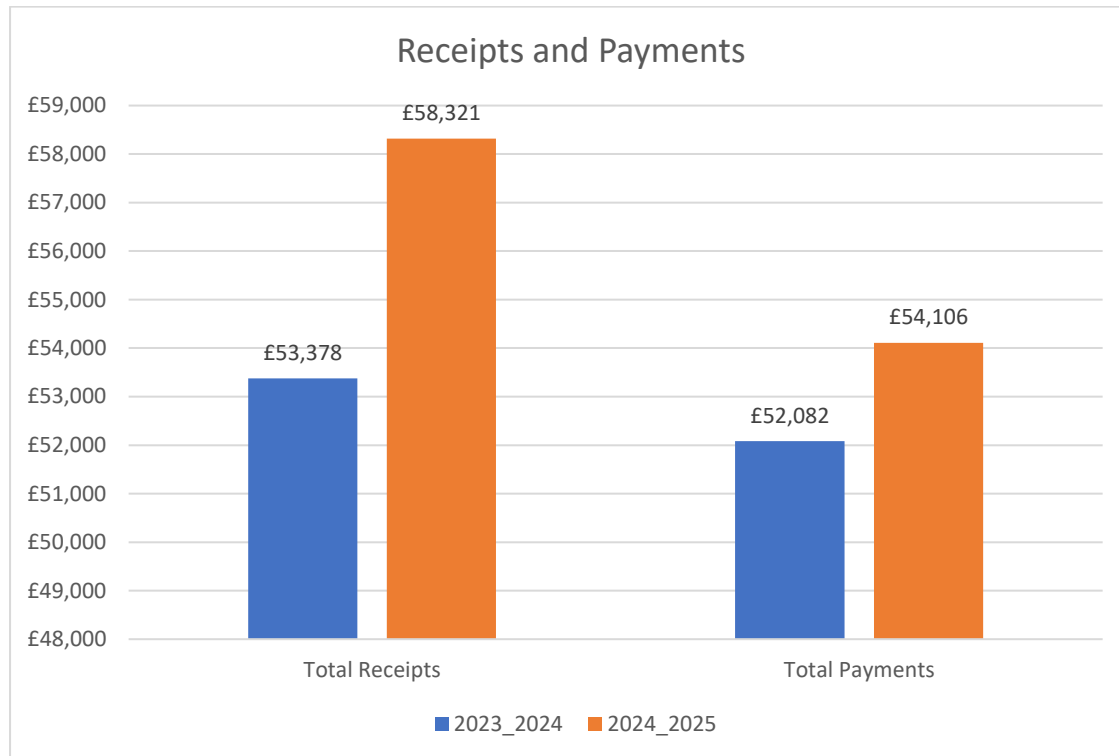
Thank you.

Malcolm Halliday, Parish Councillor.

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2025



## Financial Report for 2024\_2025



Payments have increased by 4%

Receipts have increased by 9%

Biggest Payments were for:

Grass Cutting and Maintenance £11167

Play Area Repairs £2185

\*Memorial Hall Roof Repairs £1550.00

\*Memorial Hall Kitchen Floor Replacement £3880

(\*The Memorial Hall Trust will be reimbursing these monies)



Largest Receipts were from:

Replacement Play Area Grant £5000

Welcome Wednesday Grant £1400

Memorial Hall

Revenue from hall hire was £9837

Expenditure was £5273

(excluding Repairs/Replacement Kitchen Floor)

What next for 2025\_2025?

War Memorial will be cleaned and repaired at a cost of £4500 approx. in time for Remembrance Day in November 2025.

Grants will be sought to fund the replacement Play Area

K. Garner May 2025.