

Social Club

Report to Parish Council May 2025

The Social Club has had a successful year. Our activities fall into a few categories:

- The last-Friday-of-the-month Friday Bar at the Hall
- Periodic social events arranged by sub-groups of the Committee
- Fireworks night – in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Village Hall
- Provision of bar facilities for private hire Village Hall events

In the last year we can report the following:

1. The Fireworks Night was especially successful. We had the largest attendance of recent years. The established arrangements with barbeque service of food before and after, mulled wine stall, bar open before and after, and sparklers all complementing the main fireworks event made for a very good evening. Provision of the fireworks by the Parish Council in exchange for the taking on the gate seems to work well. We try very hard to minimise the impact on the village of the many visitors, particularly trying to ensure that parking does not obstruct.
2. We have had a number of Saturday night events including the repeat of the quiz night and a jigsaw puzzle evening. The winter soup lunch programme has been extended and the summer coffee mornings held in 2024 will likely be repeated this year. These events attract between 20 and 30 attendees with many regulars
3. The Friday night bars take place at every month end other than December and also have a good regular attendance. They are a very good way for those new to the village to make new acquaintances. Several times in the year we have had entertainers come and sing – “Elvis Presley” continues to be particularly popular.
4. Our Christmas arrangements yet again included a Children’s party on a Saturday afternoon. This year Bertie Bassett returned – the committee subsidise this event from the takings from other activities. There was also a Friday night social and dance evening.
5. We have a good group of volunteers who staff the bar for private event bookings as well as the regular Friday nights. The bar has had further improvements in conjunction with the upgrade of the Lounge by the Village Hall Committee. Private events generally work very well although we did have one event that got over-rowdy. We liaise with the Village Hall Committee on screening potential bookers as best possible to minimise the risk of such an issue.

As in previous years, the Social Club has provided a Christmas bundle of toys and other items to children in families who have less resources to help them have a better Christmas. The Creeping St Mary Welfare Charities support us with this very nice cause.

For 2025 we are planning a mid-summer event on Blacksmith’s Field with similarities to the Summer Fayre that ran for a number of years. We are hoping for a lovely sunny day for what should be a very nice event.

The success of the Social Club very much depends on the group of volunteers who make up the Committee, support the bar and assist with our events programme. Many thanks to all who contribute their time and expertise so generously.

Social Club Committee