

Thank you to all the members of the Red Lion Social Club for their dedication in organizing events throughout the year, even without a pub for much of that time. Their hard work has been part of ensuring Ashendon is very special place.

A warm welcome to our new members: Kerry Yates, Yann Cluchey (our treasurer), and Peter Fountain, Peter, despite living in Chilton, has made Ashendon and The Ash Tree a second home and he is very warmly welcomed.

Special thanks go to Sue Maldonado, Luisa Pullin, and Clare Cook, who, though not on the committee, always stepped up to make our events happen. I'd also like to thank Richard Bates for securing Rebellion beer for our events, and Roger Pike, Kelvin White, Kevin Nash and the Bernwode News for publicising our events.

2024/25 Events

In April, we held a pop-up pub and quiz at the village hall. Huge thanks to Katy and Liam for making it a success and Kevin for being our quiz master.

In June, we organized a bowling trip and McDonald's outing for 11- to 16-year-olds in Aylesbury. Thank you to Claire Crwys-Williams and all the parents who helped.

Also in June, we hosted an inter-village rounders competition with Ashendon, Long Crendon, and Dorton, with both adult and children's teams competing. Thanks to Sian, Luisa, Kerry, Sarah Chester, Paul and Debbie Horwood, and Sue for pulling it off, and to Clare for organizing the tug-of-war at the end of a long day. It was a logistical feat, ensuring equipment, tea, beer were available and everyone was safe.

In September, Luisa Pullin led the ever-popular Progressive Supper. Luisa did an amazing job with thanks also to Chris. We received lots of thanks yous from the attendees and The Progressive Supper is clearly a favourite event in Ashendon's calendar. The attendees raised a total of £710

In October, we ran another pop-up pub. Thanks to Andy, Liam, Ashley, and Richard for ensuring a great turnout.

In November, Jasper Jamieson with Philip Britten's support, prepared a wonderful Over 60's Winter Supper. A delicious meal of pie and apple crumble was cooked in Philip's kitchen and finished off at the Village Hall. Thanks also to the team of servers including at least Kerry and James.

In December, all the children in Ashendon were invited to Christmas Party. Thank you to Thea Gemmell for organizing it and to Father Christmas for fitting us into his busy schedule. The logistics are not straight forward, and we're grateful to everyone involved.

Also in December, we celebrated the pub's reopening with a Christmas Auction and Carols. Gemma led the carols, Pietro was our auctioneer and led a team organising the lots, and Liam and Sue ensured the pub was ready. Thanks to all who donated and bid, raising an incredible £4,500. Thank you to Peter Johnson for collating the amazing total

In February, we held the Sloe Nouveau competition at The Ash Tree, with Emma Bennet taking the top prize. It was a lively, boozy night, and we've decided to return it to its traditional slot on the first Thursday in December.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the loss of Kelvin last month after a brief illness. Kelvin was a cornerstone of the RLSC, always encouraging and passionate about making Ashendon a vibrant community. He will be deeply missed by us.

Thank you all for your continued support. I will have missed people off my thank yous and please accept my apologies – it's a reflection of my disorganisation but also the huge number of people who have volunteered to help ensure Ashendon is a great place to live.