

Social Club

Report to Parish Council May 2026

The Social Club 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
- Monthly Coffee mornings or Soup lunches during the colder months

In the last year we can report the following:

1. The Fireworks Night was our biggest event and our best attended yet. The format of barbeque before and after the display, mulled wine stall, bar plus outside bar open before and after, and a larger sparkler area 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 are grateful for the PC commitment to this event. We try very hard to minimise the impact on the village of the many visitors by erecting temporary fencing, distributing bollards and providing parking stewards and appreciate the acceptance for this one-night-per-year event.
2. The Suffolk Day fete was a great success despite having to cancel the dog show at the last minute due to the extreme temperature. There was a great variety of stalls and events including food trucks, a bar, Punch and Judy show, fairground organ, a choir, hook a duck, WI and many more. We are most grateful for the many extra volunteers who enabled this and the Fireworks event.
3. We have continued the Saturday night events including a 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 mostly from the more senior section of our community.
4. 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.
5. 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 an adults Christmas party with a live band.
6. We have a good group of volunteers who staff the bar for private event bookings as well as the regular Friday nights. The bar area has had further improvements in conjunction with the upgrade of the Lounge by the Village Hall Committee. Private events continue to work well, providing much needed income for the social club.
7. We have periodically held additional activities on the Friday bar nights by booking local bands and reintroducing the pool table to encourage a wider demographic to join the social club.

For 2026/2027

We intend to continue with all the above events this year and expand upon them by introducing bingo, cocktail evenings, a Saturday brunch, a cheese and wine evening and an expanded all day Suffolk Day/Big Lunch event to celebrate the Village Hall Centenary. With the addition of the audio system, large screen and projector being installed we hope to open up many more opportunities for events.

As always, 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