

Annual Report for the Shottisham Annual Parish Meeting May 12<sup>th</sup> 2026.

In May 2025, I became the new Shottisham Village Recorder. My predecessor was Diana Bickerton.

This Report is a brief overview of some of the village events and activities which I have recorded throughout the year.

From May 2025 to the present, I have attended Parish Council meetings, some Parochial Church Council meetings and attended Shottisham Women's Institute meetings. In addition, I met and introduced myself to the new tenant of the Sorrel Horse pub (Michelle Power). In all instances I have attempted to collect and record as much information as possible. The information collected is in the form of newsletters, agendas, minutes, posters and my own note taking. Furthermore, at some WI meetings and village events, I have (with permission) often taken photographs. In addition, I have also taken notes on some topics and issues posted on the Shottisham What's App Group (ShottyApp).

#### Village Events and Activities:

A variety of events and activities have occurred. In brief, a few examples are: On May the 8th 25, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Commemoration was a national event. The village marked the Commemoration by a beacon being lit by the PC Chairperson (Natalie Brett). In July, an Improv' comedy evening was organised by the WI. In August, the Church organised the Annual Church Village Fete. In May 26, the WI held their annual Plant and Cake Sale.

#### Shottisham Parish Council:

In May 25, the former Chairperson (Ray Kay) stood down and was replaced by Natalie Brett. The following are some of the issues raised by village residents and PC Councillors: A short fall in the number of Parish Councillors and discussion in how to recruit new Councillors. Anti-social behaviour and vandalism in and near the village playground as well as the ongoing maintenance of the playground, The PC campaign for a 20 mph speed limit in the village. Other persistent issues raised has been, a lack of a mobile phone signal within the village and no village NHS First Responder.

#### Shottisham Women's Institute:

Meetings consist of a talk, tea and cake, raffle and donations to the Salvation Army foodbank. Talks are often varied for example in June 25, Hattie Bennet gave a talk on her life as a professional cello player. In October Chris Purfitt, gave a talk about his travel and research in Egypt. Other activities are also organised, the most recent was a visit to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich. Funding is often sought and raised for the WI Trust Hall maintenance, building insurance etc. As well as raising funds for a new project to renovate and refurbish the WI Trust Hall kitchen. Once a month some WI members also attend a Book Club. Throughout the year the WI Trust Hall has been hired by the Parish Council, the Sunderland Walkers and the Ladies Suffolk Circle. Most weeks the hall is also used for yoga classes. Recently (May 26) the hall was also hired and used as a Government Polling Station for local council elections.

#### The Sorrel Horse Pub:

In October the new tenant, Michelle Power, organised an open evening. Michelle organises pub events and activities such as a Quiz Night every other Thursday, live music, a Mother's Day lunch etc. Recently, the ridge of the roof of the pub has been rethatched.

#### St Margaret's Church:

As well as regular orthodox church services, some church services have differed from the norm. For example, in August, a Pet Service was held in the grounds of the church. In September, the Harvest Festival Service was held at the village allotments. In November a Church Nativity Garden Light Trail was organised in the garden of the new Rectory (The Place by the Water).

In September the church was used as hub for rest and refreshments for the charity Ride and Stride. In October the Church closed as a roof timber became disconnected and therefore the Church was deemed as unsafe to enter. However, this was quickly repaired and rectified.

#### ShottyApp:

Topics raised are varied from notification of local road closures and fallen trees, to a request for a contact number for a local plumber or help in finding a lost dog. Often both the Church and Pub post their events and activities.

#### Lastly:

As well as recording current events and activities within the village I have also undertaken other tasks.

Last August, on behalf of the Parish Council, The Sorrel Horse Ltd and some villagers, I deposited a number of village related documents (both historical and otherwise) in the Hold (Ipswich).

In February 26, I submitted my annual Recorder's Report to the Head of Suffolk Recorders (Geoffrey Robinson).

In April 26, at the Suffolk Local History Council Recorders Day, I gave a talk on the village Telephone Kiosk (K6).

In May 26, I submitted my Annual Report to the Parish Council, for the annual village meeting.

Village Recorder: Carole Lissauer (May 2026).