

Worlingworth Community Centre Annual Report 2026

The community centre has had an interesting year. The social club has once again benefitted from the community support with Friday nights being well attended in the recently refurbished bar and multiple evening events having had a great turn out too.

The bar refurb took two weeks of minor disruption. It was kindly paid for by the social club, but we took the opportunity to also redecorate the toilets, kitchen and hallway. This is in combination earlier investment in new flooring across both changing rooms. It's funny how a splash of new paint can do so much, but we still have a lot to do – brightening up this dark woodwork, painting the main hall, updating the eye-sore outdoor portacabins, invest in some better heating, perhaps even some options for solar power. Nothing too outrageous, but outrageously expensive!

We lost our caretaker, and dear friend, Val Arris who cared deeply for the community space. A memorial bench has been erected in the quiet garden, in her honour. And her husband Mick, continues to care for the grounds. Losing Val has highlighted that we are a small team, with heavy reliance on few volunteers. We are often seeking more feet on the ground to divide up regular jobs, fundraisers and infrequent voluntary roles, as losing Val has reminded us how difficult it is to find one person to fill such large shoes.

The community has numerous plates spinning and a small team keeping us afloat. We are awaiting further information from Anglia Water who are going to resurface the patio, after modifying the water course (which was raised as an issue after Storm Babet). However, until we have that date given to us, we are also needing to make investment in the safety of our facilities. Including the uneven surface of the patio, cordoned off playground equipment due to safety failures, and a much needed injection of cash into the disabled toilets. We will be asking the Parish council to help with these projects.

Dilemmas with running a community space are not unique to Worlingworth. However, I believe Worlingworth is a unique place. We must all band together to keep this building alive and functioning. It is too important to let it fail.

Chloe Cross

Chair