

Village Hall Annual Report 2023-24

In the financial year ending 31.03.24 the hall was used for private hire on twenty-six occasions, to include one wedding, many birthday parties and some presentations too. Income from hall hire in this period was just under £1,700. If this data is compared with the previous year, bookings were down by four events and income was down by £200.

The annual accounts that have been published do suggest income was higher than £1,700 but it includes fees that have been received for future bookings in the next financial year. We received a donation of £15 from a local rambling group for use of the car park.

There is a new notice board located in the hall to share community information which often cannot find space on the two parish notice boards. The new board has the space to provide a range of useful information that for the benefit of those residents who attend the monthly coffee mornings as well as those who hire the hall. The Wi-Fi installation did not take place until early April and therefore we must await next year's report to see if it helps to bring in more hirers.

There continues to be just one regular hirer of the hall, being a Native American Powwow Drum singing team, who used the hall five times in the past year. The HVA uses the hall throughout the year without charge, for community and fundraising purposes. This includes the monthly coffee mornings, a few pop-up pub sessions and events such as the annual quiz and race night.

The hall has operated since September 2019 without a designated caretaker and as such the various caretaker and key holder duties continue to be shared among a very small group of volunteers, who are organised by the Parish Clerk. These volunteers assist with meeting and greeting hall hirers and inspecting the hall following an event, to check for damage and cleanliness. The same small group also help to keep the hall clean and tidy, reporting any maintenance issues to the Parish Clerk. As the Booking Clerk, I am very grateful for the time and support they give, however we would also welcome extra volunteers to ensure this essential workload does not become too great a burden on the few. Please get in touch if you think you can offer some time to help the Village Hall team of volunteers.

Please also consider hiring the Village Hall for your own gatherings and functions, and encourage others to do so, as hall usage is very low at present. We can only continue to finance new improvements and to maintain recent improvements if we can increase the hall hire income.

Kim Wilde

Parish Clerk and RFO / Hall Bookings Clerk

21.05.24