

Hildersham Village Hall Trust

Annual Report for 2023 - 2024

The Hildersham Village Hall Trust (HVHT) has had another smooth year of operation in respect of its day-to-day operations. However, the Trustees were very saddened to lose a long-standing and hard working member of the committee shortly after the AGM in June 2023. Brian Cunningham had been involved with the Village Hall Committee since its inception and was a key instigator in getting charitable status for the Trust in January 2007. He spent a significant amount of time carrying out maintenance work on the building and supporting the fundraising activities. Brian had been Chairman for many years and gave his time, advice and experience with enthusiasm and good grace. We are pleased to have fulfilled his legacy of having a sign erected on the village hall. Brian will be missed by his fellow Trustees and by the village more than we can say.

The other members of the Trust continue to manage the Trust with Jenny Logan as Chair, Helen Humphrys as Treasurer and Jill Heale as Secretary. I am extremely grateful to Helen & Jill for the enormous amount of work they do to keep on top of the paperwork, finances and the general running of the hall. Our village hall couldn't continue to function without their efforts.

The hall continues to be well used with a number of regular users (dance classes, dog training and watercolour painting classes) as well as private parties and events. The Christmas village lunch was very well attended and the spring quiz night was a sell-out with a healthy sum of money being raised. Huge thanks go to Raymond Humphrys and Mark Logan for all their hard work in putting the quiz together and managing the evening. Not always an easy task!! Thank you to the ladies of the Trust for the usual delicious supper.

In line with current regulations and advice, the Trust has updated its policies on Safeguarding and Fire Risk Assessment. All policies are available for hirers of the hall.

Whilst we close the year with healthy finances, the Trust has, like all other organisations, faced significant cost increases over the year, most notably the electric tariff which has increased enormously. The Covid monies received are helping to ease these additional costs and a slight increase in hire charges has been implemented. Fortunately the Trust hasn't faced any large maintenance bills this last year and has been able to purchase some new kitchen equipment. We have our fingers crossed that the rain stops soon and we can retrieve the 3 lost wheelie bins that sailed down the river in the floods at some point but we are grateful the hall itself has not been flooded.

HVHT would like to thank the Parish Council for its ongoing support and, once again, thank you to the members of HVHT for your sterling efforts and dedication to the village hall. Without your hard work throughout the year the village hall would not be the well-loved, community asset that it is.

Jenny Logan
Chair HVHT