

Village Hall Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

The Village Hall is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is currently governed by 9 trustees. The trustees are protected from any financial liability and volunteer their time and expertise to ensure that everything is running smoothly. .

for the past year, the hall has been just ticking over. There have been no major fund-raising events while we wait to hear the outcome of the 6 Acres development project. The hall operates for the benefit of local residents and charges fees for hire which aim to cover the its running costs , which are mainly the gas, electricity, water etc.

The monthly Big Breakfast continues to prove popular and raises some useful funds to cover maintenance issues. Luckily this year there has been nothing major. Recently a grant was awarded to the charity to support our aims of developing community spirit. The money has been spent on 100 vouchers enabling some parishioners to enjoy a big breakfast free of charge.

The back of the stage has been tidied. The DJ equipment from the Summerfest is now stored there. Most of the chairs have been moved to the former pre-school cupboard. The gas boiler had its annual service recently which was successful but it is getting old and, in the future, there will be problems in obtaining replacement parts if needed. It doesn't make sense at the moment to look at a replacement system. All the electrical equipment has been PAT tested.

The hall is used every weekday. Most evenings are occupied between 6 and 9pm, but there are some day time slots and early evening slots still available. Classes held include yoga, pilates and art. Clubs using the hall regularly either weekly or monthly include the Preston Tots group which is increasingly popular and attended by local residents and for people from the wider area, the Short Mat Bowls Club, the Gardeners Club and the Table Tennis Club. The hall is often booked at weekends for children's parties and for other celebrations. A local band also hires the hall for its regular practice.

There are currently 9 trustees but we need more people to become involved and take on this role, especially since important decisions will need to be taken regarding out new hall.

We need people with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to move this project on. Meetings are currently held twice a year or when there have been developments which need to be reported to the committee. This will increase as the new hall takes off but is unlikely to be more that 4 meetings with the full committee in the year. If you would like to become involved an whatever capacity, please speak to me about joining us and I can tell you more about the role of trustee. We particularly need help from people with experience in accounting and bookkeeping, writing fund-raising bids, event organisation, building, plumbing & electricals and catering.

Jill Matthews
April 2025