

Ilmington Village Hall Report for the Period May 2023 - 2024

To be delivered by the Chair of Trustees at the A.G.M. 29^h April 2024 at 7:00pm.

The objectives stated in the Ilmington Village Hall Governing Document are, that the premises should be for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Ilmington and its immediate vicinity for 'meetings, lectures and classes or other forms of recreation, entertainments and leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare'. I believe that we are largely achieving these.

In 2023/4, we have seen increased levels of activity through hirings for family events, more grant funded wellbeing activities and our own fundraising entertainments. Our regular users include: The Traditional Ilmington Morris Dancers; Wednesday Club; Cinema Group; Horticultural Society and the Community Shop and we are grateful for their continuing support.

Family events have typically included: children's parties; significant birthdays for the more mature; weddings; christenings; and wakes. When decorated the village hall makes excellent venue for weddings and is a far more economical choice to a commercial venue or marquee.

Grant funding has enabled the village hall to purchase three sets of tables tennis equipment and offer this activity free of charge every Tuesday, for 9 months. As with the other wellbeing activities, it provides an opportunity for exercise and fun with fellow villagers, and we have been fortunate getting a couple of coaching sessions from the chairperson of The Stratford Table Tennis Club. Indoor kurling continues to attract a good turnout on Thursdays. We have had two friendly challenge sessions with the Shipston kurlers, two sessions for children during the school holidays and four sessions with the residents of Low Furlong retirement home in Shipston. The youngest participant was 6 and the oldest 101. All these events have been much enjoyed, and we are grateful to the kurling organising team for their efforts in this regard. Tai Chi on Fridays is offered at a subsidised rate since the hall hire and heating costs are also covered by grant funding and this has enabled us to retain the services of Julia Reeves, an excellent instructor, for this highly beneficial exercise.

Our trustees and friends have worked hard to procure and deliver a range of fundraising entertainments which have included:

- An evening with the England cricket star Monty Panesar.
- Jon Doran and associate musicians giving two excellent folk music performances.
- 'What's Wrong with Benny Hill' by our own Mark Currey.
- 'A Day in the Life of a Concorde Pilot' by Tim Orchard
- 'Quiz Night' with our quiz setter Lis Ribbans.
- A Pink Floyd tribute by local band 'Meet on the Ledge'.
- The Amazing Human Fruit Machine at the village summer fete.

Starting in April we raised hire charges for the first time in over 6 years. Costs had risen considerable during this time and the hire fees were covering half of the operational costs, the shortfall being made up through grants and fundraising activities. So far, bookings do not appear to have been affected by the increased rates.

In the coming year we are anticipating that the popularity of the hall continues to grow as more people use it and tell friends and family what an excellent facility we have at a very reasonable cost. We continue to plan entertaining events which will include:

- Two plays, 'My Dog has Got No Nose' and 'Audrey' both with excellent reviews
- A return of 'Meet on the Ledge'
- A jazz night with 'Paris Jazz'
- Medieval Christmas songs with 'Emmanuel's Ground'

The Hall remains well governed according to Charity Commission guidelines and relevant laws and the financial position is sound.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to thank the residents of Ilmington for their continued support and the Trustees for giving their valuable free time.

Our volunteer booking secretary, Nina Murchison sadly passed away after a serious motor accident, we will miss her and are very grateful for the many years of help that she gave. Richard Sharratt has kindly setup and administers an online booking system which is working well with increasing hirings. Thanks also to Katie Wilbur who has very kindly given her services establishing and maintaining a presence on social media platforms; to Jean Moon who volunteers to prepare the meals for our 'farmers market' and Quiz Night offerings. Thanks also to Tiffany Smith and Jane Wileman for keeping our village hall nice and clean; and to Jane Neate for looking after the gardens in the first half of the year.

We are always in need of help at events and with maintenance issues. Members of the community willing to share the workload with Trustees are very welcome. Ideas on how we might improve the service offering are welcome at the AGM and at any other time.

*Bryan Clifford, (Chairperson) on behalf of the Trustees of Ilmington Village Hall:
Paul Bryan, Richard Sharratt, Richard Cooke, Irene Sabin, Karen Peachey, Steve Prosser,
Linda Haydon, Tony Moon, Mark Currey, Joan Redhead and Carol Hawkins*