

## Chair's report 2025

My first year as Chair of the Village Hall Committee has been eventful and full of change, which is exactly what I hoped for when I took on the role.

As a team we have achieved a huge amount, and I'd like to thank all of you for your support during the year.

We agreed to hold more regular meetings so that we could keep meetings shorter, with focussed agendas to progress issues effectively. Progress has been made on our governing document and we have successfully reviewed and agreed a set of policies to ensure that our activities are safe and properly documented.

Financially we are in a good place by keeping a close eye to make sure we have sufficient funds available at short notice but equally that longer term financial commitments are considered. Thank you to Andy Glendinning, our Treasurer, for being so diligent and for the work he does to make sure he provides clear and transparent information for us to make sound financial decisions. Thank you also for persevering with Lloyds Bank.

The hall is looking fantastic, clean and well kept, and in particular has benefitted from the impetus to improve that the legacy of £2000 from the will of Valerie Boyce gave us. The fact it came with no conditions allowed us to consider, discuss and agree a wide range of ideas and the improvements we've made will really benefit the hall and the community who use it and will hopefully increase how often it is used and the types of events we can host.

Not only did we agree a range of measures to make the hall more attractive and useful (including tablecloths, lighting, picture rails, heaters, wifi connection etc) but the hall is safe, compliant with regulations and better suited to modern usage. Thank you to Paul Yeomans for continuing to carry out a variety of maintenance and improvement works and for always being ready to help.

Although we continue to look for a contractor to carry out larger works, the external appearance of the site continues to be well maintained by the gardener and appreciated by residents.

In terms of income, lettings picked up and hopefully will improve further. The hall was used for a craft fair for example and continues to host regular events such as the Womens' Institute and the Table Tennis Club. Thank you to Anna Junkinson-Broad for the work she has done on managing bookings, arranging showarounds and liaising with interested parties.

We've successfully hosted several social events during the year, such as a games evening and winter food event which was well attended. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the event and especially the cooks Molly Williams, Anna Junkinson-Broad, Clare Marshall, Kate Campbell, Andy Glendinning and Fiona Welch who saved the day with her extra oven.

Unfortunately, some events had to be cancelled due to lack of support but we are learning from these and thinking creatively with plans for more events to come in the future. The Dryad drinks evening is hotly anticipated and will hopefully draw in a bigger crowd. It's also encouraging that we have very recently received suggestions for other ideas from village residents.

We have reached out to other organisations in the village to agree dates and a schedule that avoids clashing events. We also agreed to liaise further so that we can work together and support each other at future events both here in the village hall and at other venues, such as the summer social and at open gardens. We are also investigating whether we can resurrect the horticultural show.

Thank you to Clare Marshall for being such a well organised, thorough and supportive Secretary and to Kate Campbell for stepping into that role in Clare's absence as needed.

I've enjoyed this year working as part of such a great team and would finally like to thank all committee members for contributing their time, energy and efforts to provide the village with such an excellent community resource.

Michaela Greener

Chair

Village Hall Committee

February 2025