

**Hollowell and Teeton Village Hall Management Committee**

**Chair’s Report 2024/25**

(report from Vice-Chair)

**Committee Membership**

At the 2024 AGM, a number of Committee members stepped down and no committee member felt able to stand for the position of Chair. Throughout the last 12 months, this position has remained vacant with meetings being Chaired by the Vice-Chair and tasks being shared out by other Committee members. One new member has recently joined the Committee, Simon Armstong, with a warm welcome from the existing Committee members.

The current Treasurer, John Benjamin, announced his plan to step down from the Committee in 2025. The Committee wishes to pass on thanks and recognition for John’s years of membership on the Committee, including years of tenure in both the Chair and Treasurer roles. His knowledge of the history of the Hall itself and committee meetings has been invaluable and will be sorely missed.

**Hall Maintenance**

No significant improvement work has been undertaken in the village hall this year. However, some smaller maintenance tasks to contribute to the general upkeep of the village hall have been completed throughout the year, including replacement of the taps in the kitchen/bar area, and application of a thermal paint in the kitchen area to assist in reducing condensation in this area. The Committee thanks Hugh Kinch for his work on these tasks.

Updates to various policies have been undertaken to ensure compliance with legislation and best practice, including the Fire Risk Assessment and Vulnerable Persons Risk Assessment. Thanks to Simon Wilkinson for his work on this.

**Hall Usage**

The hall continues to be used by a mixture of regular bookings and one-off events. Parish Council, Steam Rally Committee and Hopewell continue to use the hall as a meeting place and the committee thank them for their ongoing support.

One-off events include birthday parties for all ages (from 1st birthdays to 80th birthdays), election polling station, cycling events, family Christmas gatherings and christenings. Thanks from the committee to the bookings clerk, Emily Curtis, for all her work on this.

**Social Events**

The committee continued to organise a number of events throughout the year to both raise funds for the village hall and to provide an event to bring the villagers together. This includes 3 x Breakfast Cafe Events and 3 x Steam and Whistle pub nights, along with the annual Harvest Supper in October. These continue to be the most significant portion of our income and remain a significant part of the committee’s work during the year. Thanks to all of the Committee members who put significant hours of their time into organising, promoting and staffing these events. Thanks also to our previous Chair, Paul Mourant, who continues to provide significant and invaluable support to our events throughout the year; it is greatly appreciated.

**Finance**

The Treasurer Report has provided a full report on the financial activities of the Committee. Income is slightly down on previous years, but still above the minimum amount agreed by the Committee required each year to maintain the building. As above, he noted the social events organised by the Committee are the largest income by a significant margin and should be maintained as a priority going forward.

**Conclusion**

Considering the reduced committee numbers and vacant Chair position, the committee have done well this year, meeting our core objectives to provide social events and manage the upkeep of the village hall as a community facility. My thanks go to all who are continuing to volunteer their personal time around work and family commitments towards maintaining this village asset for the whole community; it is not an insignificant undertaking and you should be proud of the work we have done this year.

I would encourage all to identify any potential new committee members who can join the village hall committee to share the workload on events and maintenance tasks between a wider group and act as some resilience to the existing members, to ensure the future of the committee and the Village Hall itself.