

## Secretary's Report January 2023

This report relates to the activities of the Village Hall Committee and the uses to which the village hall has been put from last year's A.G.M. to the present time. Through the past year Christine Renouf has been the Chair, Neil Beresford the deputy Chair, David Evans the Treasurer. David Arkley is the representative of the Parish Council. Barbara Lowesmith is the TE, old T.A.A, rep. Tina Morland has stood down as the TYP rep. and we are looking to replace her. I have continued in my role as Secretary and Bookings Secretary. Chris Smith has been on the Committee for a year but unfortunately due to his wife's work has spent most of that time in Germany. However, there is always work to do and anyone not already involved with the hall will be warmly received, and probably given a job.

During the past 12 months the Committee met six times and apart from the everyday issues we have spent much time talking about our prices for the hall, which had to be raised, we held a Strategic Thinking Day during which we tried to identify what we did, what we did well, what we didn't do so well and ultimately how we could provide more and better for our community.

On going maintenance work has been carried out. Occasionally hall supporters met to tackle issues such as keeping the car park tidy, cleaning parts of the main hall that the cleaners would not be expected to reach and other minor upgrades and improvements. Speaking of hall supporters, there are a number who regularly turn out to make things tick, if I start to name names the list would be quite long and I would still forget someone so, this year, I am going to say no more on that subject. They know who they are.

The hall hosted only 1 wedding last year but we had seven lots of campers and seven family parties. One off events included a craft day, a plant sale and the Platinum party, all being very successful. Virtually all our regular hirers are...just that. We have had numerous hirings by friends of Pat Knifton and Linda Austin around the subject of textiles. The hall provides a 'warm space' every Friday afternoon with usually soup, cake, biscuits, tea, coffee and company. The hall made one grant of £1,500 to the T.Y.P. to help with equipment and supervisors. One enterprising young lady hired the village hall on two days when the coffee shop was closed and set up here own 'pop up café' to raise money to help finance her school trip abroad. The hall was also opened on New Year's Eve to receive all comers and welcome in the new year.

Steven Oldfield (Sec).