

NSPH report to Annual Parish Meeting **2023/24**

The Hall management committee is made up 10 trustees:

Myself (Chair), Carol Link (Treasurer), Ros Haines (Secretary), Jenny Tomkinson (Bookings Secretary), Olwen Law (Parish Council Rep), Mike Hurley (Vital Link Rep) Catherine Evans (WI Rep), James Barrett (PCC Rep), Tina Bate (Co-opted), Guy Haywood (Co-opted).

I am very grateful to all of them as they all bring really useful skills as well as their time and commitment to our Parish Hall.

The committee has met 6 times during the year.

We also had a day long term Strategy Planning Meeting on a Saturday in February.

Events organised during the last 12 months


1. Scarecrow Convention and Fete, July 15th in atrocious weather. Inevitably, numbers were down and the Cleobury Brass Band had to struggle in a tent outside during a severe storm. A particularly strong gust, caused the tent to leave the floor (despite being tied to a Landrover!) and the band then grabbed their instruments and wet sheet music, and gallantly relocated inside the Hall.

Many thanks to all the help we received to make the event take place (plenty of other local events were cancelled).

2. Work Party on July 5th, tidying up the outside of the Hall and grounds.

3. Christmas Celebration on December 22nd. A happy, busy afternoon/evening. Father Christmas called in and gave presents to 20 local children.

4. Easter Day Big Breakfast, March 31st. Organised primarily by PCC, Thank You. Great turnout and success. Problem with electric overload from the toasters.

5. Open morning in April, organised primarily by WI. Thank You. Representatives from all the local organisations, coffee and cake 

Improvements in the last 12 months

1. New Smart TV, supplied by the Parish Council. Thank You. A TV licence has now been acquired

2. New shelf beneath the screen to deflect radiator heat. Thanks to James Barrett

3. Road gates were refurbished and repainted

4. Parish Hall has a page on the Vital Link Parish website

5. Updated Risk Assessment for the Hall

6. New Logo for the Hall and Facebook page - thanks Catherine Evans

7. 2 Lime trees removed from the car park boundary - thanks to Guy and George Haywood

8. New length of hedge planted under the 2 remaining Lime trees

9. Start made on the internal improvements. ASE Ludlow are in the process of upgrading the toilets and creating a new storeroom from the old ladies' toilets.

We have spent many hours discussing and considering options, to create more storage space in an appropriate and economical way. Original plans to extend the Hall were shelved when it became clear that the cost was excessive, for the return. As a result, we

are now creating a storeroom from the Ladies toilets, with a new double door entrance from the main Hall.

The gents' toilets have been removed and are being converted into 2 individual modern toilets.

New folding tables and chairs will be bought to be stored in the new storage space.

Later this year, we are going to put up a shed on a concrete base, behind the Hall, to provide further storage. This will include some of the old tables and chairs, always useful for bigger outdoor events.

Finances

Many thanks to Ros Haines for chasing numerous grants, to allow us to pursue our aims to improve the Hall. As a result of her efforts, in the last 12 months we have attracted:

£10,000 from the Lottery

Promise of £2,500 from the Parish Council

£3,667 from Platinum Jubilee Fund

Future Events and Plans

1. A Parish Event on September 14th (no Scarecrows this year!)
2. A Parish Photo in 2025
3. New tables and chairs
4. New storage shed
5. Further hedge planting on the road boundary
6. Develop a marketing strategy once the improvements are done, to increase hirings.
We are looking to promote the Hall as a quality small venue with good internet access in a great location.

Many thanks to Arthur Ratcliff for continuing to cut the grass and to George Haywood for cutting the hedges.