

Report from NSPH to the Annual Parish meeting on NSPC

During the year the hall committee have organised:-

- New Outside lighting. Took longer than hoped but has been well received and will be appreciated more in the winter months. New floodlight on the car park, activated by a switch in the hall. It is on a one hour timer to avoid it being left on. Movement sensor lights at the gate to improve visibility when opening and closing the gate
- Alteration to the bank account to avoid charges on the account. Online now set up but longer process to set up the availability of online payments rather than using cheques to pay for services and goods. (thanks to Carol)
- Kitchen cupboards reorganised and labelled (thanks to Olwen and Catherine)
- (Very) Old large teapots replaced
- New noticeboard and fencing, joint venture with Church, PC and us. (thanks to James Barrett and Arthur Ratcliff)
- Dead trees removed in the grounds and also on the river frontage (thanks to Arthur Ratcliff and Michael Tomkinson)
- Big Community Photo on June 22nd - image now hanging in the Entrance hall. Huge success, great turnout, the weather was good, strawberries and cream helped the afternoon too. Thanks to Nick Goodwin, local photographer who specialises in animal and pet photography, but organised us all splendidly. Thanks to Guy Haywood for tractor and platform that raised him up to take the photo! It was suggested that we should repeat this more frequently - the committee would be interested to hear what others think?
- Vintage Applefest in September. Another great community event, many thanks to everyone who bought classic vehicles to display and particularly to Roger (with help) who bought his large vintage Apple press, which was in use all afternoon. We were lucky to have Paul Raymond to provide live music and PA system. The WI ran an Apple Cake competition and tea and cake were available alongside the cider bar with filled rolls and pork scratchings. Date for this year is September 12th and will also be an opportunity to celebrate the Hall's 40th birthday. We are hoping to have a display of photos from the last 40 years- does anyone have any? Please let me know.
- Annual Tidy up took place on August 25th
- New permanent banner at Six Ashes to advertise the hall has had a definite increase in hirings (thanks to James Barrett)
- Defibrillator training day was held in July. (Thanks to Jenny) Huge thanks to our two local Doctors, Nageena and Matt, who ran the session and provided all the dummies. It was oversubscribed and very well received. We are hoping to arrange another session this year for those that couldn't attend the first time.
- Jolly January was another happy friendly community evening in the hall at the beginning of the year. Good food and drink and plenty of hilarity and fantastic hamper prizes for the raffle.
- Ros Haines and I visited some other halls to look at alternative heating systems. It was a useful exercise but left us thinking that we probably have the best system for us at the moment. Our main issue is that the wall heaters load the electric supply to near capacity, when they are all switched on, so there is little available supply for other equipment and the system tends to trip, if pushed to capacity. For the moment we have disconnected one wall heater and that seems to have eased the problem
- New coat hooks in the hallway (thanks to James Barrett)

Finances

As a registered charity, our accounts are available for anyone to see.

As many of you know, we benefitted from some generous government grants during Covid. We continue to spend this money carefully, to improve the hall now and for the future.

We aim to try and cover day to day costs from hirings, but this is increasingly difficult with rising costs, especially for electricity and insurance, and increasing levels of legislation around risk management. As a result, we have had to increase charges slightly this year, but remain very competitive.

We strive to keep aware and informed about grant opportunities and are fortunate to have Ros Haines as Secretary and ace grant finder!

We have recently applied for a Lottery grant to help with kitchen improvements. G

The hall management committee is made up 11 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), Jolante Petruliene(Co-opted), Guy Haywood (Co-opted), Andy Price (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.

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