

HADSTOCK VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 2023

CHAIRS' REPORT.

Two major issues were carried over from last year: a problem with the central heating and a grant application for renovations to the front of the hall. Both have now been resolved.

Our new application for a building grant was successful and we now have step free access to the garden and patio area, a much-improved frontage and parking area plus a new bench positioned to encourage passers-by to enjoy the superb view over Hadstock and beyond.

There were no grants available to identify and rectify the heating problem, but investigations traced it to a fractured pipe below the concrete flooring which has now been replaced. We have also installed an oil tank locking system, replaced several windows and carried out a variety of maintenance repairs. We did apply for a grant to improve insulation in the hall by adding double glazing to the windows, but this was rejected.

These expenses, alongside our usual, and escalating running costs have had an impact on our finances. To be financially secure, each year we aim to have enough in our account to cover any emergency repairs plus running costs for the following 12 months. We have fallen slightly below this amount this year and the increased hire charges reflect our need for prudence.

We must also mention other support that we receive: The Village Hall 100 club is managed by Barbara Bye and supported by 100 payees hoping to win one of the monthly prizes. John Lockton continues to work on garden improvements. Also, Tim Boyden and the Fete Committee, who plan and organise the logistics needed to mobilise everything making up Fete Day; 6 months of meticulous planning which underpins the 4-hour event.

We, as a committee of volunteers, continue to work together to maintain and develop the hall with the aim of ensuring that this valuable asset will continue to be available for everyone living in Hadstock. Committee members continue to organise events, take bookings, oversee hall viewings, organise cleaners, gardeners, planned and unforeseen maintenance, apply for grants, monitor finances, pay bills, take up quotes, oversee work, check for cleanliness or breakages after hall usage and manage the website. Kirsty and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all wholeheartedly for their energy and commitment.

Our aim for 2023 -24 will be to look for opportunities to increase our income and become more financially secure. As always, new members, new ideas, new suggestions, practical advice, and support will always be welcome.

Lynn and Kirsty, Joint Chairs 2023-2024.