

AGM 30.5.25 - CHAIRS REPORT.

Business is booming at the VH. Our regular bookings continue – Silver Band, Veterans Band, Yoga, Hartbeeps, Pub Night, Parish Council, Sustainable Hadstock and Hadstock Society, Village events: Fete teas, Harvest lunch, Burns Night, Charity events and private bookings for parties, [children and adults] weddings and funerals. Thank you to everyone who supports us by renting the hall, either regularly or for single events. We are also very grateful to voluntary support from Amanda (all things building related) John (for maintaining the garden) and Tom Pickford (for auditing our accounts).

Copies of our reports on Lettings and Finance will give you more details on how we work to ensure the hall can continue to be a village asset, available to all. Maintenance also forms a large part of this aim, ensuring the hall is safe and fit for purpose. We have a regular schedule to keep the hall stocked and clean, plus bi-annual survey of the building, internally and externally to both avoid disintegration and meet the requirements of our Risk Assessment policy. There are also unexpected repairs, notably this year – replacement of some of the outside lights, replacement of the curtain rail after the curtains fell off the wall and repairs to an external water leak. Our website advises potential hirers that we can accommodate parties of up to 80 people and we have recently upgraded some of the crockery and glasses. We also had to fit another wall cupboard in the utility room to accommodate these items.

Our major upgrade this year was the Victorian windows. Kirsty has made several applications for this work and the Lottery fund finally agreed to our request this year. The metal frames have been cleaned, repaired and repainted both inside and out and secondary double glazing fitted inside. We hope that you will agree that they look much better and we already feel that our insulation is much improved.

Looking forward, we have agreed to upgrade the lighting in the hall. Exact details of the work planned will depend on whether we are self funding or whether a grant is available for a more comprehensive upgrade. With the help of Sustainable hadstock, we have a grant to fit Solar panels to the hall. The money will be available for use this new financial year and arrangements are being discussed. Discussions are also ongoing on how best to replace our oil central heating, water heating and the expensive, and old, overhead electric heaters. Watch this space!

On a personal note, this is my final appearance as Village Hall Joint Chair – a role that I have shared with Kirsty for several years. Being part of the VHC has been both enjoyable and, at times, challenging and I have been very lucky to have been supported by such a committed team. I am proud of our achievements over the years, and I thank them all for their dedication, good humour and willingness to rise to every situation challenge.

Sarah – will say a few words about the accounts. Copies are available.

Jude's lettings report is available as a handout.

Finally, the members of the new committee are here; Kirsty, Sarah, Jude, Peter, Derek, Susan, Sue, Jane, Carol - Maggie, is unfortunately unable to join us this evening.

They are already making plans for continuing to keep the Village Hall centre stage in our community and I wish them well.

Should you wish to ask them any questions please let them know.