

CVHRegistered Charity
Number 1001707

Clive Village Hall

Chair's Report (2022-23)

Our 2022-23 year was a slightly unusual one for the Village Hall. It began in March with the shadow of Covid still lingering. While our usual array of activities were taking place, our regular groups were reporting low attendance rates as we all slowly got used to being out-and-about again. As the year progressed, life got back to a more normal routine and use of the hall increased. In June we joined together with other local organisations to successfully celebrate the late Queen's Jubilee Weekend. The autumn saw us hosting some popular village events including the Church's Pate, Poems and Puddings and Harvest Festival lunch; and the Clive Village Show. Our own monthly Coffee Shop and Clive Christmas Fair were very successful. The year ended with the Village Hall closing as we prepared for the major refurbishment work on the main room to begin.

As a result, during this year our income from lettings was slightly down on the previous year and on pre-Covid levels. General expenses, particularly our utility bills, as for everyone, had increased. For the first time our lettings income did not cover our general running costs. However, our redevelopment account benefitted not only from our own fund raising but also two substantial grants – one from Shropshire Council and the other Veolia Environmental Trust. This money was ear-marked for our refurbishment project.

Despite these strange times, it is a pleasure to see the Village Hall still able to provide the community with a venue for its activities. A place for local groups to meet; toddlers and school pupils to play, for young and old to celebrate their birthdays, for friends and neighbours to chat with a coffee and cake; and for local organisations to hold fundraising events.

The Village Hall would be just an empty building if it wasn't for a small but hard working group of volunteers who serve on the management committee, organise events or help at our fundraising activities. I would like to say a very big thank-you to them all. However, we do need more people to step forward and help if we are to continue to be a vibrant part of village life.

Paul Nicholson

20th April 2023

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Chair's Update (May 2023)

Thank you to all those who came to see the 'new look hall' at our re-opening event on the Coronation weekend. Many more of you will now have seen the results of our refurbishment as you attend your clubs and activities. To appreciate the magnitude of the changes we need to go back in time....

Below is an excerpt from my report at our **AGM in 2014**.

At its meetings, the committee as well as dealing with day-to-day matters has been looking to the future. It has begun working on developing a realistic and sustainable 'action plan' for the village hall. Firstly, members identified what they valued about the hall and what they would like to see improved. They liked the location of the hall – in the heart of the village, within walking distance for many villagers and being close to the church, school and village field – and that it was a centre for village activities. Members enjoyed its rural look and ambiance including its wooden beams and historic features. They felt the main room provided an adequate space for the larger village events but was intimate enough for small groups. Members loved the garden, which was seen as an attractive asset and an open space to be enjoyed by all. The committee felt the village hall has the potential for improvement.

Members identified a number of key areas that they felt could be improved. These included: the heating system and insulation to help keep the building warm in winter and reduce dampness; access to the building as the steps at the front, the disabled access at the far rear of the building and access to the garden are not ideal; better use of space as the committee room is not well used, the kitchen and toilets were felt in need of improving and there is a lack of storage space; and finally, the lighting, particularly in the main hall.

At our AGM in May this year, I reported that after nine years of hard work, consultations, fund raising and grant applications, our 'action plan' was finally completed. We re-opened the hall on Coronation weekend to reveal the accomplishment of the final phase of our redevelopment. The village hall remains at the heart of the village, we still have a beautiful garden and are a centre for many village activities. However over the last nine years, we have realised the hall's potential and the 1899 building has been completely refurbished. The building is now fully insulated, has a new roof, double glazed windows, a new heating system, new electrics and lighting. Access to the hall, both front and rear, has been improved and the internal space reorganised. This has given much improved accommodation – a wonderful large kitchen, better toilet facilities, a garden room/reception area and more storage space. In making the hall a more sustainable building with much

improved, updated facilities, we have still retained its rural look and ambiance. We have enhanced the beams in the main hall and highlighted some of its historical features.

Those of you who remember the hall back in 2014 will recognise the incredible changes that have taken place, None of which would have been possible without the wonderful support of the community and Clive Parish Council; the hard work of the management committee and our architect, Richard Pidduck; and the financial backing of Shropshire Council, the National Lottery and in particular the Veolia Environmental Trust.

We have a Village Hall that we all can be justifiably be proud of. The refurbishment is complete but we still have plans to further improve the facilities and resources available to our users. With continued support we can ensure we are a warm, welcoming and inclusive space for the community to enjoy.

Paul Nicholson

15th May 2023