

Fovant Village Hall

Chairman's Report

2024-2025

The main concern for the village hall this year has been the increase in rainfall and the worry of flooding in the hall. We had a flood survey carried out and on this evidence we decided to install barriers at the doors. This has not been straightforward because all of our doors open outwards to allow quick evacuation in the event of a fire and barriers are designed to be fitted to the outside. After much discussion it was decided that the barriers would be put on the outside and installed if extreme weather was forecast.

You may remember that last year I spoke about the ingrained dirt on the hall floor. Again we asked for advice and as you can see the floor has been sanded and revarnished. As long as we use the recommended floor cleaner the varnish should prevent this happening again.

Our other concern is the drop in hirings. There are not enough bookings to cover the running costs of the village hall and if it were not for the committee putting on events, the maintenance of the hall and the costs for equipment would soon become a problem. This week is Village Halls Week and the committee have arranged a Music Night on Friday followed by an Open Day on Saturday between 2.00 and 5.00 pm. This event has been well advertised with a leaflet drop to every house explaining why we are doing this and the committee hope for a good response.

Having two venues for events in the village is bound to cause problems with funding for both but although we have tried we cannot work out how to run a joint event especially with a dangerous junction between the two.

Events arranged by the committee this year have been the very successful Quiz night in October with a most delicious Thai Curry made by Moon, the Christmas Ploughman's lunch in December and a Cheese and Wine Tasting at the end of January which was over-subscribed. The Pound Arts event at the beginning of December had to be cancelled due to the weather and also lack of bookings.

The hall is used every week for Pilates, tap and Yoga as well as for the regular Thursday morning coffee, Cheryl's Open Door on a Tuesday morning and Breakfast on Saturdays.

The Coffee morning and Open Door are open for anyone to drop in for coffee and a chat. Numbers have dropped which is strange for such welcoming

events. Coffee morning is at 10.00 am for an hour and only 50p for coffee or tea and biscuits and all ages are welcome. Open Door is from 10.00 til 12.00am and mostly for people who would like more company and the chance for laughter, but everyone is more than welcome. There's also the chance to browse the library for something to your liking.

I would like to thank the committee for all their support this year and to thank Linda Bailey, who is no longer on our committee, but has been a staunch supporter of the hall and who has done such a lot to make the hall the warm and inviting place it is today along with her husband Ray who has willingly done many small maintenance jobs.