

North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee
Chairman's Annual Report August 2019

On Saturday March 30th at 11:00 Nick Daubney, The Mayor of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, assisted by long time village resident Mary Cook cut the ribbon on the re-furbished North Wootton Village Hall marking the culmination of eighteen months of work by the Village Hall Management Committee.

Now the Village Hall's new doors open to reveal a new insulated ceiling with improved efficient lighting, a restored wooden floor, upgraded toilets, a modern kitchen and a bright and welcoming re-decorated interior. All of this was made possible by the support of the Parish Council, the tireless efforts of the Hall's committee members, friends of the Hall and the high-quality work provided by Nurse Builders of North Wootton. The refurbishment was financially supported by a £32,000 grant awarded by WREN's FCC Community Action Fund.

Work on the hall didn't stop there; this year we have also replaced windows, re-laid gravel and re-stained the whole of the exterior paintwork. We have also invested in new tables to accommodate demand at our markets. The Hall fairly glows with pride after all this work. The Hall now has a new and improved website with added features allowing Villagers and other users easier quicker access to information about the hall, how to hire it and minutes of the committee's monthly meetings.

The Hall is also welcoming more people than ever confirming its place in the heart of the village; from weddings to art exhibitions, dog training to yoga, usage of the hall is at its highest level for years. We have established some popular regular local events including the Christmas Fair, Spring fair, our monthly Village Market, Thursday evening Family Bingo and the always over-subscribed Pop-Up Indian Restaurant. Watch out for the forthcoming Fish & Chips Quiz night!

A note about West Norfolk Wins: not wanting to encourage gambling but I do want to acknowledge the support of the people who buy tickets and support us as a charity. This provides a steady income each month which boosts our refurbishment fund.

The committee's future plans for the hall include extending the gravel alongside the building to create more car parking space, the relocation of the path bringing it closer to the side of the hall, completing the replacement of the windows and investing in a higher capacity electrical box. We intend to fund this by applying for a number of grants that are locally available and by continuing our fundraising work.

It's been a privilege to work with the committee during this past year and I thank them for their tireless dedication. I know we all look forward to the challenges that the coming year will bring.

Dennis Blackmore
Chairman, North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee
12th August 2019