

North Wootton Village Hall management Committee

Chairman's Report 2022-2023

In the last twelve months the Village Hall has been busier than ever. We have made the following physical improvements to the Village Hall:

- Installed road signs showing directions to the Hall.
- Completed extra exterior storage to the rear of the building.
- Undertaken interior decorative repairs.
- Repainted the exterior.
- Replace faulty windows.
- Trimmed hedges to the rear of the hall.

Our recent major project was the completion of a porch to the front of the village hall. This was made possible in part by a grant from the Borough Council and we appreciate their support in this. Thanks also to Wayne Skipper who designed the porch and to our builders. The porch is a fine addition to the hall enhancing visitor experience while maintaining its unique character.

The Hall continues to provide the premises for a range of local community activities including baby Massage, a Birth Happy Club, Yoga, Dance, Cake Decoration and Ukulele band practice. The Wednesday drop-in Coffee Mornings hosted by The Church in the Woottons have also proved very popular. The Hall is constant use by the community for parties, weddings, and club meetings. Monthly Bingo continues to be well supported and the occasional 'pop-up' Indian restaurant has once again attracted visitors as have the specialist food trucks that occasionally use our carpark.

Our 2022 Christmas Market was opened by the mayor, and residents had the opportunity to use a free bus service to get to the event. Enticing stalls along with mince pies and mulled wine encouraged the community to 'shop locally' to the music of a Ukulele band; two of Santa's mischievous elves entertained our younger shoppers.

The Village Hall marked King Charles III's coronation with a fun day for all villagers. Lunch and locally brewed coronation ale (thanks to our brewer Jason Harper) were on offer, and we were blessed with good weather. Many visitors planned to stay for an hour, then went home and returned with garden chairs and their families. We were royally entertained, dancing even broke out, and photos from the event were featured in the local press. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk was on hand to represent the King and accepted the task of judging the contestants in our village scarecrow trail.

On Saturday 10th June the Village Hall supported the Picnic in the Park by running a coconut shy to raise funds for Wootton Park.

Our finances remain healthy, and we have completed a successful external audit. This is good news as, like any vintage building, the Village Hall is always in need of care and attention; in the coming year we are aware that both the roof and floor will need some attention.

We were proud that the work of committee members Will Border and Antony Lamb was acknowledged by the award of Community Champions by Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. During the period covered by this report, we were pleased to welcome Kip Baker, Pauline Marshall-Grint, Fiona Rippon and Rachel Williamson to the committee.

As we once again begin to plan this year's Christmas Market, I'd like to thank all the Committee members for their selfless work on behalf of the Hall and the local community.