

North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee  
Chairman's Report 2024– 2025

This committee's job is to care for the fabric and contents of our Village Hall while promoting and encouraging its use by the community. I hope this report demonstrates our efforts to fulfil this goal.

- Following a lengthy period of consultation and tendering process, the floor of our hall has been cleaned and treated to expose the beauty of the wooden boards.
- Repairs have been carried out to the roof ensuring the integrity of the cedar wood shingles. Moss was also cleaned from the roof.
- The exterior of the hall has been re-stained.
- To improve security for the hall we have installed extra lighting at both sides of the hall.
- We have completed the installation of 3 more cycle racks.
- We have constructed extra storage cupboard at the rear of the hall.
- We have installed new Bluetooth speakers so that music can be played at events
- Several electrical sockets have been replaced on the outside the building.
- We have invested in upgraded chairs, as well as new toilet and paper towel holders.
- A new replacement dishwasher has been purchased.
- We bought mugs and aprons with the VH logo printed on them for use in the kitchen
- Our 'pop-up restaurants' offering Indian and Turkish cuisine continue to be popular.
- We supported a 'Festival Too' evening which was a great success.

We had a record turnout for our 8th Village Hall Christmas Fair. There was a Christmas Raffle, a Tombola, a variety of stalls offering seasonal food, drink and gifts and in attendance were Father Christmas, four elves, and the mayor; however, the biggest draw by far were two live reindeer! Without doubt this was the biggest and best fair to date with around one thousand visitors.

Our other major event in this period was the VE Day 80th Anniversary celebration, including a scarecrow trail in the week leading up to it and a beacon lighting on the actual day. The main event was on Saturday 10th May. Thanks to the support of our neighbours we succeeded in having the road closed to create a street party atmosphere. The highlight of the day was an RAF flypast by a Hurricane from the Battle of Britain Memorial flight. Villagers, many in 1940's costume, enjoyed Eddie Searles Big Band and Kelly Ann music. Several food vendors attended, and refreshment was supplied by our resident brewer Jason's VE Day 'Celebration Beer'. The committee secured a £3,800 National Lottery grant to help fund the event.

Historic documents relating to building/plans along with the early history of the VH have been returned to the care of the committee from Barclay's Bank where they had been deposited in a vault. We shall store these documents in the fireproof cabinet at the hall for safe keeping.

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. Bookings continue to remain very strong, with the Village Hall being very popular for hire by the village and surrounding area. The Hall is constant use by the community for parties, weddings, and club meetings. Monthly Bingo continues to be well supported as does our thriving monthly market. The Hall continues to provide the premises for a range of local community activities.

We are a team of volunteers assisted by many friends of the Hall; I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts and officially welcome two new committee member: Lucy Lemmon. Zehra Ebelhack.

Dennis Blackmore Chairman of the North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee