

## **North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee**

### **Chairman's Report 2025– 2026**

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. In pursuing this goal, we have undertaken the following actions:

- Installed a fire alarm and instated a fire policy including a nominated Fire Marshall.
- Improved security with extra exterior lighting.
- Painted the Hall exterior and added shingle.
- Installed a new speaker system.
- Extended our WiFi coverage
- Cut down the encroaching and overhanging trees behind the Hall.
- Refurbished and returned the Village Hall sign.
- Reviewed and increased our prices for hiring the hall and hiring pitches at our markets.
- Reviewed and increased our prices for goods sold from the kitchen at our monthly markets.
- Launched our Friends of the Village Hall initiative to lighten the load on committee members.
- Agreed to install air-conditioning.
- Unsuccessfully attempted to acquire land behind Village Hall.

Our finances remain healthy, and we have completed a successful external audit. This is necessary as 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. Our annual Christmas Fair was another great success.

This year we have had two of the founder members of our committee stand down. Bridget Nurse whose local insights and professional knowledge have been invaluable, and Bob Angell who, as head of our maintenance committee (often a committee of one or two) has made an incalculable contribution to the wellbeing of the Hall. We thank them both.

The Committee is a team of volunteers assisted by many friends of the Hall; I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts and officially welcome a new committee member: Anne Winson.

Dennis Blackmore Chairman of the North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee