

Chairman's report for Parish Assembly April 25th 2023

The Village Hall has had an active year.

Committee

Chairman Liz Sedgwick

Treasurer Graham Inskip

Bookings and maintenance Mandy Chase and Steve Goater

Parish Council representative Alistair Dougall

Others Maureen Gilpin, Beryl Jones, John Hurley, Jenny Hebburn.

Mandy and Steve joined the team after Stephanie Grant moved out of the village and have proved invaluable!

Regular Events

Coffee mornings.

These have been very popular and well attended. Several charity fundraisers have been held with great success.

Table tennis and pickleball continue and there are plans to purchase a badminton set for further activity sessions.

The WI use the hall for their regular Monday meetings.

Baby and Toddler group also meet monthly on Fridays.

Annual events

We held a BBQ last summer for the Platinum Jubilee and plan a repeat to celebrate the Coronation of the King .

A Christmas wreath making event in December was popular and we plan to make this a regular event as a fund raiser for the hall.

It is hoped that an Autumn social will be happening in October.

The Houghton Trail is back in its proper place and happens next Sunday.

There has been a steady stream of private bookings which Mandy now manages via the village hall page on the Houghton website.

I should like to extend my thanks to all the committee members who have continued to work very hard attending meetings and helping at events- (Alistair's management of the games at last year's barbecue is unforgettable!) and turned up tirelessly to make coffee, bacon sandwiches. Also, thanks to Terry Heffernan for stepping up to the BBQ plate!

Refurbishment

After many meetings and village consultation we have scaled down our ambitions for the refurbishment. We are going to adopt some plans which extend the cage area, improve storage, and allow a rear exit onto the field. We will also seek funding for repairs/replacement of the roof, drainage system and electrics.

We plan to seek a more environmental heating system, investigate solar panels, improve insulation as well as replacing the kitchen and installing an up-to-date audio-visual system.

We have discussed this with the Parish Council and let the trustees know what we are hoping to achieve. We will be taking advice from **acre** and looking at funding from grants and the Houghton Community Benefit Fund.

The new environment group in the village are giving input and also helping with finding funding for the "green" elements. Once we get a project manager we should be off the ground. It's been a long process.

The Welcome pack is still being distributed as we hear of new residents.

Finally, many thanks to Nick Harding and Graham Inskip for running the Village Draw and moving both sales and prizes on-line when we were in lockdown.

EJS
25.04.2023