

Hemingford Abbots Village Hall Annual Report. 31 December 2024

30th April 2025 Chairmans report

Activities

During the year to December 2024 the village hall was well used. Many groups and individual hirers have made good use of the hall throughout the year and have been very complimentary about the hall and its facilities.

We had lots of our old friends using the hall but also plenty of newcomers. The hall was in use for most days of the week, but we have plenty of room in the evenings and weekends for new bookings.

The Hall will be advertised more widely in 2025, and we will be creating our own web site. We had lots of our long-term customers back including the art groups, keep fit group, the lunch club, the bridge club, WI, GOBA and the First Aid trainer. Children's parties were on the increase with lots of fun for the children, some parties had a bouncy castle with an ice cream man on standby. We had two very successful wedding receptions held at the hall.

We had two quiz evenings run by the hall which were very successful. They were both a sellout and raised valuable funds for the hall. By popular demand we will keep the quiz evenings going in 2025. We had a very successful music and entertainment night, and we hope to repeat that in 2025.

We have refurbished and replanted in the front garden, and we have added two sculptures (at no cost to the hall). I trust the changes meet your approval.

For health and safety, the hall was kept up to date on all legislation and monthly testing. We are pleased to report that we had no reportable accidents in 2024.

We have introduced the 200 Club to the villagers as another way of raising funds which has been well received. The first £200 prize was given out in December for the November draw and by the April draw which is paid at the start of May 2025 we will have paid out £1200 to the members.

Finances

We had a very expensive year in 2024 with a lot of maintenance required including a treatment of the main hall floor costing £4000.

Due to the increase of all costs to the hall including utilities, maintenance, outside contractors, as well as one off expense such as the carpark lighting, we have had to utilise some of our reserves to cover last year's expenditure.

It has been necessary to increase the hourly hiring rates for the first time in nearly 10 years. It was introduced from January 2025 and so far, has been well received by all.

The charges are still below that of other similar facilities in the area.

We were very grateful for several donations made to the hall during the year including £900 from the proceeds of the safari supper.

The final accounts show a loss of £3,332 and reserves at the end of 2024 are lower than 2023 but are still a healthy total of £29,772. With the price increase and fundraising schemes such as the 200 Club happening in 2025, reserves are expected to remain at a safe level.

Committee

The committee are all volunteers, and we have Jenny Desborough as our only employee. I am very pleased to say we have retained the same committee members.

The committee did an outstanding job, and they deserve our thanks. Well done to you all.

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The hall is in perfect condition to welcome our villagers and friends in 2025.

The Committee did an outstanding job in 2024, and they are continuing in 2025.

Members of the committee and their responsibilities.

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|----------------------------|---|
| Stuart Prosser | Chairman |
| Margaret Cloke | Treasurer |
| Catheryn Reed | Secretary |
| Beryl Lager | Health and Safety |
| Rie Hargreaves | Outside maintenance and landscaping. |
| Caroline Denny | 200 Club, and other duties as required |
| Chris Nicol | Duties as required |
| Alan Touhy | Organisation of maintenance jobs |
| Jenny Desborough, employee | Bookings, Maintenance and Customer interface. |
| Matt Casey | Joined the committee in January 2025 |

Other significant contributors but not on the committee

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|---------------|---|
| Bob Penny | Invaluable help on IT. |
| David Bryant | Organizer for major evening events and resident |
| chief. | |
| Andrew Burton | Organizer for major events and resident DJ |
| Sam Cousins | Practical help and advice on various issues. |

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James Stuart Prosser Chairman Hemingford Abbots Village Hall.
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