

Hindolveston Village Hall Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2016

The Village Hall continues to be a focal point for most of the village activities and groups. Many of the groups that use the hall's facilities are "fitness-based" and range from general keep-fit, through hapkido to tai chi. A wide range of other regular activities takes place, including quilting & patchwork, life drawing and contemporary textile work, and also the carpet bowls team still uses the hall. Hindolveston Village Screen (the cinema) goes from strength to strength and has now established a solid and regular audience for occasional foreign-language films. Maybe this is in part because of the new upholstered seats the hall was awarded by the BFI. There is to be an occasional return of "Live Screenings" - plays, ballets or drama live from London theatres and playhouses.

The regular Monday-morning Coffee Shop is still an extremely well-supported service, provided by two extremely hard-working village ladies. The Coffee Shop has become a major donor of funds to village hall coffers. There is a regular annual 'Hindolveston Crafts in Action' weekend, when people can come and see how 'things are made' and ask questions. This is always well supported, as is the pre-Christmas Hindolveston Craft Fair, the opportunity for locals to buy from a huge range of village-made, high-quality products.

So it is still true to say that in dozens of different ways, the village hall is still a vital, busy building on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis, including celebration events such as christenings and parties.

Sadly, however, the regular Friday evening bar facility has had to be curtailed, due to lack of support, but the bar still opens on the last Friday of the month, as well as for functions, both public and private.

The Management Committee has been aware for some time of the worsening condition of the car park, especially that half of it closest to the former Methodist Church. Mindful of our duty of care as trustees, we are on the point of instigating works to create a safe disabled-users footpath for the elderly and those in wheelchairs or buggies. Our long-term plan is to resurface the whole car park (properly) but at a current cost of almost £30,000 for just the part in very poor condition, we are a long way from achieving that ambition. We have found that funding is available for all sorts of projects, but not for mundane things like car parks. We have ideas and plans for slowly raising the funds for this important work, but in the very short term, our duty of care dictates that we must act to make safe and easy access for pedestrian users.

The Management Committee will continue to work towards the gradual general improvement of the hall and its facilities, ensuring that it remains good value for money, in hiring terms, but at the same time we must ensure that the fees charged are sufficient for the purpose of keeping the hall safe, warm, dry and welcoming to all users.

Audrey Bould
Chair, Hindolveston Village Hall Management Committee
17.04.2016