

## Trustees Report 2022-23

The Trustees were pleased to report that this year things have got back to near to normal, following the disruption caused by Covid in previous years. Most of our hirers have resumed their meetings, although, unfortunately, some have ended. However, new groups have filled some of the gaps. The hall continues to be well used during the week but is not so busy at weekends.

During the last year, Trustees were pleased to welcome two new Trustees Clive Edmonds and Kay Brundell who has taken the role of Lettings Secretary. Unfortunately, during the year we have had three Trustee resignations Rob Rose, Alison Hawes and the Chairman, Philip Tallent. The short and long term impact of these and other changes are still being assessed.

The Trustees have continued in their negotiations with the Parish Council over a new lease, but there were still a few issues to be resolved, and this had been ongoing since 2015. The draft lease was currently with the PC who have told us they are seeking independent advice on a couple of issues.

The Village Hall worked with the Parish Council to share the cost of resurfacing part of the car park and many of the problems with potholes have been resolved although more holes have reappeared in the access road.

Unfortunately, during the last 12 months there had been two incidents where the hall had been broken into. On the first occasion, the CCTV system was stolen and some internal damage had to be repaired, and on the second occasion some ice cream was stolen and a fire extinguisher was discharged, but no other damage was done.

The Village Hall's Modernisation Steering Group (MSG) had continued to meet, and has produced a detailed specification and was in the process of engaging architects to take the project forward. However, the MSG project is currently on hold while the Parish Council decides on whether to proceed with modernisation or a new build. A new wi-fi system had been installed with the use of a grant from East Suffolk Council.

The village hall finances were still sound and there was a reasonable balance in hand. The Trustee have reviewed the hall hire charges, something which had not been done since 2014. As a result it had been decided to increase the rate by 10% from January, to remove the 15% discount for residents but retain the 30% discount for regular users. The CIO agreed to the new hire charges and the new costs (rounded up to the nearest 50p) were published.

With regard to our sub-committees Bingo and Wickham Market Movies continued to operate normally and generate funds for the village hall. Unfortunately, it was not possible to arrange a village show this year but it is hoped this could be held in 2023. The Archive Centre is in the process of moving from the porta cabins behind the village hall to a new location in the garden of the Library with support from the Wickham Market Partnership and the Parish Council. Once this has been achieved the Archive Centre will no longer have any relationship with the village hall.