

Stoke St Milborough Village Hall

Chairman's Report

Village Hall AGM

January 2025

As we move into 2025 Stoke St Milborough village hall remains a popular venue for parties, events, and meetings. The village hall has continued to host a variety of events. Pub nights have continued to be successful, this year with the introduction of the pizza trailer and RJ's burger and waffle van in addition to Billie's amazing food. The local skittles league has continued to occupy the hall over the winter months bringing in welcome revenue to the bar. The hall also held the first darts evening. Regular film nights and quiz nights organised by Ashley and Martin continue to be popular and generate funds for the hall. Big Breakfast remains a tradition too. We have hosted (and made a profit) from 3 Arts Alive Shows this year with the latter Mountain Song being our most successful since the James Bond Act ten years ago. We look forward to a continued partnership with Arts Alive in 2025, the next show in February being a comedy evening of very old radio.

The annual Summer Fun this year was a fantastic community event bringing together many local faces and people from further afield too. I wasn't able to join the Christmas party this year but I believe it was very well attended with a visit from Santa and a great time was had by all. The hall has also attracted other Village groups and organisations have also been using the hall including the Parish Council and it has been hired by many individuals and groups for parties, weddings, new coffee mornings, the election, Brown Clee Burn, Shropshire Walking Festival, church events, dog training and band practices.

This report is my chance to show appreciation to the members of the committee. You all bring your own expertise, enthusiasm, and experience to this group to keep a much loved venue alive and running smoothly. It needs to be remembered that all members give their time voluntarily, for which I am sure the village is grateful. A special thanks to the officers on the committee

especially, Ashley who has done so much for the committee in terms of promotion, contents and good running of the building.

I can report that the management committee still has enough members to function, although more members are always welcome.

We have had a full complement of trustees. Their names and relevant details can be found on the Charity Commission website. The Charity Commission provides very helpful advice for how to be a trustee, and the duties required. Our trustees who are also management committee members are unpaid.

The Fabric and Contents of the Building

We have had some maintenance work performed this year. One highlight is that the gents toilets have been refurbished. The wall heaters and extractor fans have been replaced thanks to Phil who has also kept our electrics up to standard. Lots of jobs were completed during the Spring clean morning including weeding, planting, DIY jobs, cleaning – a great effort by all. Outside hanging baskets donated by members of the village and the new planters and plants made the village hall look really inviting over the summer. We also have a new water butt to keep the plants alive too.

This building is a hugely important asset to the village. The committee will continue to drive the hall forward. We are always appreciative of new ideas and thoughts about how to run the hall and will always welcome new members onto the committee.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone on the committee who volunteers their time to keep the village hall up and running to maintain a thriving community resource for the village.

Caroline Dahn