

## ANNUAL REPORT, GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL 2024/2025

Thank you for attending this years AGM. I can report that it has been a very successful year, we have four new regular groups or classes, started showing National Theatre Live and we have enhanced our emergency hub, a facility which we hope never to use. We have also produced an interesting book about the school, the hall and the village. We end the year having made an excess of income over expenditure of £1559 and the hall is financially secure.

I wish to start by thanking our current committee which has been enhanced by Helen Lewins who has joined us as the Parish Council representative, Jane and Chris who look after the lawns, those who help setting up and putting away away after events plus those who make cakes for our very popular coffee mornings. A special mention goes to Henry Brown who has again audited our accounts.

We need to seriously consider progression planning as I, as chair, am approaching eighty years old and my time is now bound to be limited. What I wish to ensure is a smooth hand over of the responsibilities of chair rather than a sudden one which may be forced on the committee by events and I hope to do this over the next year when I can then stand down as chair. I will continue to play any role I can as a committee member.

### EVENTS

The hall committee has run 35 events this year. Ten regular monthly coffee mornings, nine fish and chip nights, five National Theatre Live evenings showing four plays and three Highlights productions have been supported by two major events, the Christmas Fair and the BBQ and other nights ranging from the launch of the heritage book to interesting talks. Not specifically village hall events but it has also been used free of charge on four occasions to raise money for Breast Cancer Now and for Defibrillator Training. The Events run by the committee produced a net income of £2747 an increase of £687 over the previous year

### HALL HIRE

Hall usage and therefore income has increased considerably this year to £2460 from £1376. The hall hire rate is the same this year as last and will remain the same for the foreseeable future. This is mainly as a result of the additional regular users which all started in September. These are an Upholstery Group weekly in term time, a Craft Group and Sound Bath both on a monthly basis. Pilates has changed from evening to day time and with a new instructor and now has two sessions per week. Glynis Murray Hill continues to have her women's well-being events and both the WI and PC hold meetings. One off hirings have increased to twenty this year. We expect hire income to increase again in the current year

### OTHER RELEVANT ITEMS

#### Emergency Hub

Our ability to provide emergency facilities has been increased by the purchase of a larger generator and changes to the electrical system costing £3408 which has been fully funded by Green Rigg Wind Fund and we are very grateful for their support. Again I say that we hope this will never be used but we must be ready for any eventuality. We can now operate all our normal electrical equipment using the generator which is a great improvement. We have some volunteers who are willing to help if it is needed but we do need more.

#### Electricity.

Electricity cost £420 in the year. Of this £314 is for the removal of one meter and the installation of a smart meter and £187 was the standing charge. This means that the credit for supply to the grid was greater than the cost of supply from it. We will probably remain on our current tariff until it expires but we do have the option to change to a day night tariff. We also have a smart export guarantee tariff for what we export to the grid. We have applied for grants to double our battery capacity to 40 KWh which if approved will further improve our energy efficiency.

## Maintenance.

Maintenance remains quite a high cost at £1274 in the year. This included several quite major items although nothing like the previous years expenditure. We must accept that in an old building expenditure on maintenance will remain a considerable portion of our expenditure and unexpected items will sometimes occur. We also consider it one of our major responsibilities to maintain the hall in a good condition for the benefit of future generations.

## Equipment.

Several items of equipment have been purchased in the year. Mainly they were five new square tables costing £218. These improve our ability to provide a pleasant environment especially for Highlights and Theatre evenings. New P50 fire extinguishers, £357. Although more expensive than conventional ones they last ten years without an annual inspection so will save future cost. Most relevant are the cushions you are sitting on plus their storage containers. Only £110 but probably the most welcome item purchased. We will continue to spend surplus funds on items which we consider will improve the facilities provided by the hall.

## Heritage.

We produced the book on the School, the Hall and the Village. This was the culmination of a two year project led by Community Action Northumberland involving 30 of the 160 halls in Northumberland. We took part in it to help celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the closed primary school being converted into a village hall. It has resulted in a very interesting book and copies are on sale for £10.00 mainly at the Coffee Mornings.

## Garden.

We have started making improvements to the garden. The two laburnum tree have been drastically pruned and this year the area near the rear wall has been renovated making the usable lawn larger and the border just inside the gate has been replanted with shrubs hopefully making a long term improvement. We need to consider what to do with the border on the verge outside the wall and this will be discussed in the meeting.

## HMRC Tax on Donations

We received a refund of tax on the donations we had been given of £328. This relates to tax years ending 2022 and 2023. This current year we will make a similar claim for tax years ending 2024 and 2025 and ongoing it will be on an annual basis.

## FINANCE

As stated at the start of the report a successful year with an excess of income over expenditure of £1559. We keep our reserve funds in high interest accounts with Dudley Building Society and our normal banking in Lloyds Bank current and deposit accounts. We may need to review our facilities with Lloyds Bank as they have announced the planned closure of the Hexham Branch in November this year. Our Income and Expenditure Account for the year is attached.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2025

### INCOME

Hall Hire	£2460
Events	£5357
Donations	£712
Heritage Books	£560
HMRC refund	£328
Interest	£935
Grants	£3408
Total	£13760

### EXPENDITURE

Cost of Events	£2610
Wi-Fi	£414
Electricity	£420
Water	£290
Maintenance	£1274
Health and Safety	£340
Admin and Household	£249
Licences	£252
Insurance	£902
Heritage Project	£871
Equipment	£804
Grant Funded Projects	£3775
Total	£12201
Excess Income over Expenditure	£1559