

Warkworth War Memorial Hall - Annual Report

1/4/24 to 31/3/25

(Registered charity, number 225812)



The Memorial Hall, built in 1866, serves as the village hall for the people of Warkworth and surrounding areas, providing a vital facility for a wide variety of communal activities. It is managed as a registered charity for use by local inhabitants without distinction of political, religious or other opinions. It offers a range of events encouraging Community Activities (Coffee Mornings, Art Group, Film Club, Drama Group, History Society and WI), physical well being (Dance Fitness, Pilates, Carpet Bowls, Yoga, relaxation & meditation), provides a meeting venue for the Parish Council, hosts dances, concerts and plays and is used for ad hoc events for the local community. The Hall is managed by Trustees with 4 committee meetings a year, plus an AGM. This year's committee, made up of volunteers and representatives from various user groups, comprised of Peter Burnham (Chair), Tim Gray (Treasurer), Yvonne Stoddart (Booking Secretary), Marion Jones (Minutes Secretary & W.I.), Barry Jones (History Society), Stephanie Hall (Art Group), Jeff Watson (Parish Council), Jon Willey (Film Club).

It is a stone built building, part of which is listed. The Hall income and annual expenses are normally reasonably balanced. Building maintenance work has been financed by grants and hall funds accruing from a property sale in 2006. Whilst our end of year balance is comfortable this is an old building with potential for expensive repairs, e.g. a reserve of £50,000 is needed to enable re-tiling of the roof if/when required. We will continue to seek grants for building maintenance work in the hope of limiting our call on reserves each year to £5,000 to £10,000, with the intention of giving existing funds a lifetime of at least 12 years.

It has been a good year in terms of increased bookings for the Hall and good attendance for concerts and the cinema club. Main developments this financial year were as follows:

- We have submitted a request for deeds to be established for the Hall. The original deeds were lost many years ago.
- Minor refurbishments: basement emergency exit stairs repaired and repainted; some improvements made to the heating although it is likely that further work will be required; basement toilet replaced. Planning for main toilet refurbishment commenced.
- We have started work to submit our management procedures for endorsement by the Hallmark Scheme.
- Website moved from a personal account to CAN service to improve resilience.
- Improved support offering for those struggling with Information Technology with access to on-line courses and purchase of a new printer and two chromebooks.
- Trolleys purchased to hold tables in a safer manner.

Peter Burnham (Chair of Trustees) 16th September, 2025

Warkworth War Memorial Hall, 40 Castle Street, Warkworth, NE65 0UN