

Warkworth War Memorial Hall - Annual Report

1/4/23 to 31/3/24

(Registered charity, number 225812)



The Warkworth War 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, Community Cinema, Drama Group, History Society and WI), physical well being (Dance Fitness, Pilates, Carpet Bowls and Yoga), provides a meeting venue for the Parish Council, hosts dances, concerts and plays and is used for ad hoc events for the local community.

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.

Main developments this financial year were as follows:

- Excessive damp problem in the basement resolved and a water leak on to Castle Street was fixed.
- Chromebooks for IT training purchased Using Morrison's Foundation grant.
- Joined Northumberland Community Energy Ltd (for possible future solar energy provision)
- 'History of the Hall' project completed and featured in a Coffee Morning.
- Basement stairwell re-decorated by a small team from the Drama Group and Trustees.
- Enhanced fire-alarm system installed.
- As requested at the last AGM, our booking arrangements were modified to provide new regular events with two initial sessions at no charge.
- Hall survey held to help our future planning. The main building developments requested were improved heating and an upgrade of toilets, in particular female toilets.

The Hall is managed by Trustees with committee meetings 4 times a year, plus an AGM. The Committee is made up of volunteers and representatives from various user groups. Trustees during this year were Peter Burnham (Chair), Tim Gray (Treasurer), Yvonne Stoddart (Booking Secretary), Marion Jones (Minutes Secretary), John Lilley, Janet Buist, Barry Jones, Angela Mein, Sandie Saunders, Jon Willey and Sheila Pearson.

Peter Burnham (Chair of Trustees) 20th September, 2024

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