

**Chair's Annual Report
for
Cornish Hall End Village Hall's Annual General Meeting
on
02 October 2025**

Welcome and thank you all for attending this Annual General Meeting of the CHE Village Hall.

This past year has seen the continued good use of the Hall. This was in no small part to the hard and dedicated work of those Trustees and others who have volunteered to clean and keep the hall maintained and organise and support events, meetings etc. for the community, as required by our charitable status;

“(the hall is held in trust).....for the use of inhabitants of Cornish Hall End, Essex and the neighbourhood, for the use for meetings, lectures, and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.”

We, as Trustees, I am sure, shall continue to do all we can to encourage the Hall to be put to good use, and the events that we have held this year have seen good attendances, and have helped raise sufficient funds to maintain the running costs.

In the past year we have had 9 Management Trustees who have given their precious time to keep the hall open and available for our local community – my thanks to them.

As well as the Trustees we have at least five other volunteers who have helped to help run and look after the hall. Their help and involvement are very much appreciated. Thanks too, to the Parish Council, and particularly our ward councillors for their continued support for the hall.

As was reported at the last AGM, Jane Blewett stood down from her position as Treasurer, but I am pleased to say Elaine Hodgson from Finchingfield kindly joined us as our new Treasurer and Management Trustee – many thanks to her for being prepared to give us her expertise.

Sadly, Ashleigh Heirs felt she could no longer continue as part of the Management Trustee team and so stood down in July. Our thanks to her for her time and effort over the past three years, especially in handling the bookings for the hall.

Anne Dacey has kindly taken on the duties of Bookings Secretary, once again – thanks too, to her.

Katherine Diss recently joined the hall team as a Management Trustee – our thanks to her as well for being prepared to give her time to help manage the affairs of the hall.

The legacy of £10,000 from Barabara Foot, for the upkeep of the hall was received earlier this year and put to good use, by funding the redecorations of the hall and repairs to the car park. Excluding the legacy payment and the ‘extraordinary’ cost of redecoration and repairs, the hall continues to be in a sound financial position and

continues to 'pay its way' with income we make over the year. Thanks to the Parish Council for reimbursing our insurance premium. Once again, our surplus funds were invested and the interest earned has been added to our general funds.

Regarding maintenance of the hall, it was fully redecorated during August and September. (There was an infestation of bees in the roof that delayed the completion of the redecoration, but with the help of a local beekeeper these were successfully removed unharmed!)

The installation of the newly purchased acoustic panels in the main hall (to help reduce back-ground noise during gatherings) is soon to be arranged and the car park paving and cracked drainage channel were repaired.

Routine checks on fire safety equipment, and air-conditioning maintenance have also been carried out. PAT testing of electrical equipment is also planned.

The hall continues to benefit from use of the playingfield as an over-spill car park following the gated access that the Parish Council installed to allow more accessible use of the playing field by pedestrians and vehicles.

For the past year the hall has been used by a regular weekly singing group and twice weekly pilates classes.

This is in addition to numerous birthday parties, a 50th anniversary party and hire of equipment, aswell as use by the Parish Council for their meetings. We also had a consultative visit from Essex Police.

Our own events have included a successful spring Fair, and a successful quiz night.

Further events already being planned by the Hall include another Quiz Night in conjunction with the Horse and Groom pub later this month, and we also anticipate that the hall will continue to be used for parties and meetings.

Thanks again to all the Management Trustees for their input to keep the hall in use for the community, and we look forward to another successful year.

Peter Dacey
Chair, CHE Village Hall Management Trustees
02 October 2025