

**Chair's Annual Report
for
Cornish Hall End Village Hall's Annual General Meeting
on
03 October 2024**

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

This past year has seen the continued growth in the use of the Hall, despite the challenges of increasing costs and the pressures on people's disposable income. The events we and other hirers have put on and the positive feedback and word-of-mouth from those that have used the hall, have all contributed to a successful year; but also, and in no small part, due to the hard work of those who have volunteered to clean and keep the hall maintained and organise and support events, meetings etc. for the community.

As a reminder, to accord with our charitable status, the Village 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."

Over this past year, thanks to the hard work of the Trustees and other supporters of the Village Hall, this has been successfully achieved, reflected in the lettings and use of the hall over the year.

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 at the hall, and have helped raise sufficient funds to maintain the running costs for the hall.

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 wished to stand down from her position as Treasurer. She kindly agreed to stay in the position until such time as a suitable replacement was found.

I am pleased to report that after all this time, a replacement has been found and I hope that she will be voted on as a Trustee and take on the position of Treasurer.

Without wishing to pre-empt any decision of the Management Trustees, on their behalf, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to Jane for her sterling work in keeping our finances in order, which I know has been a challenge at times.

She has served as Treasurer for over 10 years, and I am pleased to say that she has agreed to carry on as a Trustee.

On a sadder note, Barbara Foot, a long-time resident of the village and a past Chair-woman of the Village Hall sadly passed away earlier this year at the age of 89, and even in her latter years she was a supporter of our hall; I have recently been informed by her executors that she has left the hall the sum of £10,000 in her will, which will be sent to us in due course once her affairs have been settled. So, I say thank you Barbara for your hard work in the past and for leaving us a legacy.

The hall continues to be in a sound financial position, and, although in overall deficit due to some extra ordinary expenses (floor repairs and a replacement air conditioning unit), we fulfilled our remit to 'pay our way' with income we make over the year. Thanks to the Parish Council for reimbursing our insurance premium. Our surplus funds that were invested have now matured and the interest earned has been added to our general funds.

Regarding maintenance of the hall, the new dehumidifier in the kitchen continues to do its stuff; new paving was laid to the front area to tidy it up; areas of the hall floor were repaired and new vents to maintain its condition are proposed; a new replacement air conditioning unit was installed; the installation of acoustic panels in the main hall are also being mooted, to help reduce back-ground noise during gatherings, and repairs to the car park paving are to be undertaken this year.

Routine checks on fire safety equipment, and air-conditioning have also been carried out, and slipped roof slates are due to be re-fixed.

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

The bookswap and coffee meet came to an end this year, but thanks to Penny Edmundson and Lynn Cadman for giving their time in keeping it going.

For the past year the hall has been used by a regular weekly singing group occasional use by a children's karate class, as well as a personal trainer for her classes, and of course the general election. This is in addition to numerous birthday parties, hire of equipment, and use by the Parish Council for their meetings including a local consultation for submission to Braintree District Council's local plan.

Our own events have included a successful Christmas fair, our first boot sale on the playing field and a successful quiz night

Further events already being planned by the Hall include a Quiz Night, and our usual Christmas fair, that we hope will be supported by the villagers; 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

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