

YARPOLE PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Chair's Report 2026

This is my first Annual Report, having taken over as Chair a year ago. When I took over the Parish Hall was the attractive and well-used venue which it continues to be today. Many thanks to all the Committee for their support in my first year and their hard work to ensure that our Parish Hall continues to thrive. It has been another busy year.

Our pledge continues as:

“To maintain and continue improving a welcoming environment, that is accessible to all existing users and encourages newcomers to our hall, to participate in a variety of events and activities.”

We have seen some changes to the Committee over the past year. Jill Grant has now stepped down fully, following her house move. Dave Bradford is no longer our Booking Secretary. Janet Owen, Secretary, and Joan Waters are resigning at this AGM and Julia Marshall has joined as the new Secretary. Thank you Jill, Joan, Dave and Janet, and a welcome to Julia. Gordon and Sandy Ewing continue to support us helping at events as “Friends”. We do need to recruit more Committee members and friends.

The Parish Hall is well used by its regular groups. Annual income for 25/26 is lower than the previous year, however some classes have reduced (now only one weekly “Move it or Lose it” class and “Modern Jive” has stopped). The Communal Crafters monthly class started in the Summer of 2025. The Parish Council and YPGNS’s 4Cs continue to use the Parish Hall on a monthly basis. The Hall also continues to attract users from the Parish and from the wider area for meetings, parties, talks, and wakes. The car park is used regularly by cyclists and walkers groups. There was a very successful Brownie indoor camp in March.

The Parish Hall Management Committee continues to organise regular fundraising events. Flicks and Food, in association with Arts Alive, continues to be very well attended and contributes to Parish Hall income. The Summer Party in June 2025 was supported well. Unfortunately the planned Ceilidh in February 2025 had to be cancelled, due to lack of bookings. Another conflicting event and possibly wet weather malaise may have contributed.

The 200 Club is another regular fundraiser and supports the maintenance and running costs of the Parish Hall. However we continue to see a year on year reduction in members: 2024/25 180 members, with for 25/26 down to 171. The 26/27 renewal is just starting.

The Parish Hall is regularly praised by its users for its lightness, décor, the garden and ample parking. Through the year the Committee has been regularly working on the external maintenance. Pruning hedges and overgrown landscape planting, garden clearance, drain and septic tank clearance. Thanks to our neighbour Martin Bashford for pruning the huge overgrown beech hedge at the rear for us and to David Teale for his pruning efforts generally. This coming year we are hoping to tidy up the rear side fence and side gates.

With the help of our Parish Councillor, Dan Hurcomb, the damaged front area of the car park was resurfaced by Hereford Council when the upper part of Green Lane was repaired. This was a tremendous bonus for us.

Thanks go to the Parish Council for paying for the new pads and battery required for the Defibrillator, and to Gigaclear for continuing to provide us with free Wi-Fi.

The local Men's Shed Association has supported us this past year: completing a renewal of the external noticeboard and more recently taking over the weekly safety checks, as the Committee members able to complete them has dwindled.

The Parish Hall has various Policies and Procedures. A refresh has been started to bring these up to date. The Risk Assessment, Fire Risk Assessment, Fire Safety Policy and Hire Terms & Conditions have so far been updated. They are now on a regular annual review pattern.

In conjunction with the St. Leonard's Management Committee the hire rates for the Parish Hall and St. Leonard's have been benchmarked against similar other local venues. As a consequence hire rates have been increased by £1 per hour with effect from September 2026. This has been notified to all the Parish Hall's regular users.

Thank you to all the Committee for their continuing support and hard work to maintain our lovely Parish Hall. I am very grateful to all the Committee for their help organising the various events and undertaking maintenance activities. So much goes on unseen, which our users have the benefit of.

In addition to the Committee, Jan Tandy continues to efficiently manage the 200 Club, which is so essential to our funds. Jen Martin washes the tea towels, another unseen and very necessary task. Pam Lewis, and sometimes her husband too, cleans for us regularly and also on a more ad hoc basis for specific hires. The successful Flicks events would not happen without Adam Scott's organising and projection duties. Adam is also my go-to for AV help.

A final thanks to all those in the community who support the Parish Hall, through attending our fundraising events, organising and attending the many varied classes and clubs which contribute to our community and the Hall funds. Perhaps come and join us on the Committee or as a Friend. We hope for a successful 2026/27!

Amanda Hordern
3 June 2026