

Chair's Report for the Yarpole Parish Hall AGM
Tuesday 10th June 2025

Another busy year in the life of the Parish Hall since our last AGM. The hall continues to be well used & attracts people, not just local ones, but from further afield as well.

Our pledge for the year 2025 has continued and is:

"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."

This sums up what our Parish Hall is all about and is something that the committee strive to achieve, through the various events and happenings within the hall.

During the year, bookings and hall usage have been maintained. Our regular fitness classes include yoga, pilates, zumba, tai chi and three new classes 'Move It or Lose It', a modern jive group which is resuming in the Autumn and the Communal Crafters group starting shortly.. The art group continues on a Wednesday afternoon and also the Friday night indoor bowls sessions. The hall is regularly used by the Parish Council, and the Yarpole Talk community hub group, set up as part of the Good Neighbour scheme, providing coffee, cake, chat & company for those who find it hard to get out. The 4C's group holds a regular meeting on the last Friday of each month and has become very popular. The group has also used the hall for their annual quiz night. The car park has been booked regularly throughout the year by cycling and rambling groups and the Herefordshire Wildlife group, a History group meeting and a local music group have also had several meetings in the hall. Flicks in the sticks, organised through Arts alive and the Parish Hall committee has thrived again this year, with flicks and food seeming to be very popular. We have had a new DVD player which has enhanced the quality of films showed. Private hire bookings have continued over the year too for, christenings, parties, wakes etc.

Other fund raising activities have included a Christmas party and ceilidh, a summer BBQ and the Feast of St. Leonards, hosted jointly by the Parish Hall, The PCC and St. Leonards Management. The 200 club is a major fund raiser for the year and helps enormously towards the on-going maintenance and running costs of the hall. 2024/5 saw 180 members in the club, which was slightly down on last year but still a tremendous boost to hall funds. We are now in the process of recruiting new members and encouraging existing ones to renew their membership for July '25 – June '26.

We regularly receive very positive feedback and appreciation for events in the hall and for the general environment, décor and atmosphere. The refurbished kitchen this year has greatly contributed to the environment, and alongside a new larger cooker, has enhanced the facilities considerably.

We were really pleased that following an annual assessment, we kept our recognition by Gigaclear as a community hub, and as such they have continued to provide us with free wifi. This is a huge benefit to the hall, particularly as we live in an area with poor mobile phone signal, and it has enabled groups using the hall to access the internet for their talks and research and is also an added selling point for people hiring the hall.

The kitchen has been the major upgrade for the year but other work has been on-going, including general maintenance tasks and any incidental repairs.

During the year we've had a few changes in the committee. Nigel Archer stepped down as Treasurer and we are delighted that Jeremy Gray took over this role and we welcomed him to the committee last September. We also welcomed Alison Williams to the committee, who was thrown in at the deep end contributing to cooking for flicks almost straight away.

I'd like to finish as ever, by personally thanking all of the committee for their continuous hard work and support. It continues to be a very active thriving group who work well as a team and everyone has been willing to get involved with things and give willingly of their time. Apart from all the activities and events mentioned previously, there's a lot that goes on 'behind the scenes,' which is not always obvious to everyone. The on-going tasks such as treasurer, secretary, booking secretary, doing weekly safety and fire checks, events organising and helping, keeping the bar stocked, planting and maintaining the large plant boxes by the front door, gardening, cooking, painting and keeping the décor up to scratch etc etc. The list of 'incidental' tasks is infact endless and we are so grateful for all the voluntary contributions of people's time as without all of this commitment, the Parish Hall would not be able to function. Jennie Martin continues to regularly wash our tea towels, which is greatly appreciated and Pam Lewis continues to work hard each week keeping the hall clean and sparkling. Thanks also go to Jan Tandy for all her work with the 200 club & Adam Scott for organising the films for our flicks and food evenings.

I've been in the Chair now for three and a half years and can honestly say that I've enjoyed the role, although I must admit it was a steep learning curve to start with. My job has been made so much easier with all the team work and camaraderie amongst the committee, which I cannot thank them for enough. Due to our recent move to Shobdon, the role of Chair and trustee should be filled by somebody living within the Parish, so because of that, I have taken the decision to step down. Having lived in Yarpole for twenty seven years I would like to maintain my connections with the village and I'm happy to stay on the committee for a while, providing an extra pair of hands wherever possible.

My last thanks must go to all those in the community who have supported us so well by attending events and running the various groups and clubs, and we look forward to the continued support for next year, and of course, if anyone else would like to come and join us on the committee we'd love to see you!

Jill Grant 10/06/25