

Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall

Church Road

Ruyton XI Towns

Shropshire

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Registered Charity: 1023136

Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Annual Report for Parish Council AGM – 21st May 2024

It's been a year of change for the Village Hall with us saying a very grateful farewell as David White stepped down as Chair and from the Committee after many successful years of service, and we wish him well in his much deserved retirement. In his place I have stepped in as Chair with Colin Case remaining as Treasurer and Colin Gittoes still as a trustee with the new additions of Liz Beddoes and DJ Humphreys onto the Committee.

We have also said a fond farewell to Karen in Café Eleven as she has also retired and are extremely pleased that Ruth Corfield has taken over in the café and will continue a much loved village asset into the future and help keep the Memorial Hall maintained.

This year we have had another extremely successful sell out panto put on by the RATS and for anyone not already got a ticket, soon to have the Murder on the Overnight Express from 6-8th June. We ran a new addition of a Halloween Disco back in October that was also very popular and totally full so we need to consider how we make this bigger for next time while within max capacity of the hall. Yoga, Rainbows and Brownies continue as regular hires as normal.

We have set up a Facebook page for the village hall (for anyone not already joined it) so we can better communicate our events and advertise the hall for hire and we have a brand new website under construction and coming soon that will in time run the booking process and Century Club to make the admin easier as well as increasing our visibility as a facility for hire. We have also installed baby changing facilities to ensure we are catering for as many people as we can.

This year we intend to re-launch the Home Grown Show as the Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Show on 14th September. The aim is to have something for everybody in the village to enjoy from a BBQ and Bar, tombolas and activities, trails and scavenger hunts for the children and a general knowledge quiz as well as the traditional craft, fruit and veg, baking, photography, flowers and floral art competitions and tea and cake refreshments with a raffle for all and rounding up with a little disco for the children. We are hoping it will be a chance for the whole village to get together, have some fun and raise some money for the village hall which is quite expensive to maintain each year and we hope to see you all there – save the date! To run this we are going to need some volunteers and helpers on the day so if you are able and willing to help please do let me know and also please do enter the competitions, it makes for a much better show! I also have a formal letter for you asking if you will continue to support us with your sponsorship of the event.

Into the future we are looking at putting on a village garden trail. I think the last one in the village was about 7 years or so ago and would really like to do this again so will be reaching out to all our

keen gardeners who would be willing to open their gardens for this event hopefully some time next June – watch this space!

On the subject of maintaining the hall, we have had a fire survey done this year that has generated a long list of advisory recommendations that we are working our way through. Some we have managed to put in place already; additional emergency signage in the toilets, asbestos survey (none present), additional emergency lighting on the outside of the building, replacing damaged ceiling tiles etc. However, for some of the others we need to source some grants or funding first as there are some sizeable projects we will need to address; a new fire and smoke alarm - £1,250, which requires the hall to be re-wired to modern standards at approx. £10,000, Fire painting the stairway - £100 and replacing the doors at the top of the stairs with fire doors - £1,000. In addition to this we really need to address the heating in the hall which is dated, inefficient and costly and have got a quote for the best solution of air con heating but this is another £9,300 and also requires the wiring to have been completed first.

I am in the process of looking into grants that are available and am pleased that there are many options I can explore but it has identified an issue with our charity governance that needs to be resolved. Our registered governing document is currently the deeds for both the village hall and memorial hall but these are very dated and don't include the clauses that would be in a modern constitution that organisations who provide grants and funding require for you to be eligible to apply. I know this is a long standing issue that only becomes more outdated and problematic as time passes and if anyone can help with this or knows a solicitor who would be able to look into it for us (without costing the village hall precious funds) then it would be a big help. As such, I do have to ask into this year if the Parish Council can also help with regards to the required upgrades to the hall as they are essential for us to continue to maintain our village hall and to be able to use it and hire it out to the public.

The village hall committee fully appreciate the help and support that has previously been extended by the Parish Council and I look forward to continuing the work with you to maintain our village halls. Thank you.



Carol Aspinall (Chair)

On behalf of the Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Committee.