

Syresham

VILLAGE HALL

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Syresham Village Hall, Main Road Syresham, a CIO charity with the registration number 1160674, has now been open for almost 4 years. The hall is owned and run by the CIO. The hall is insured by Zurich, and our cover includes all the appropriate liabilities, including that of our members and trustees.

Our aim is the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the inhabitants of Syresham and the surrounding area, without distinction of gender or political, religious or other opinions. It is used for meetings and classes and other forms of recreation and leisure activities and events, with the aim of improving the lives of the aforementioned inhabitants. As I have said many times before, it is important that we remind ourselves of this at all times, so that we continue to ensure that we fulfil this aim.

Owing to the pandemic, use of the hall was severely restricted until June last year when our regular organisations began to hold their meetings again and we started taking bookings for social and leisure events. We were delighted to be able to restart our weekly Coffee Shop in June and hold our annual Scarecrow Festival somewhat later than usual in July, plus we had another very successful Art Exhibition in October. The village hall also supported the Cabaret Show in July, which showcased some of the great talent we have in the village. At the time of writing this report, things are virtually back to 'normal' and we have a very healthy diary of 'What's On' and forthcoming events. Gary Mitchell has taken over as Booking Clerk and we thank him for the excellent work that he has been doing over the last nine months or so, together with his daughter Steph.

I would also like to thank all 14 of the Village Hall Trustees for the great work they have done to support and maintain the hall during a very difficult time.

Our accounts are in a very healthy state and have been prepared by our Treasurer, Gill Swinford, and audited by Cathy Corns, and I thank them both for this. We have continued to promote the hall on our website www.syreshamvillagehall.co.uk and our thanks go to Keith Watts for managing this website. Our fantastic new sound system in has been up and running and working well. We have just upgraded our Broadband to a digital business system which will considerably improve the wi-fi facilities in the hall.

The village hall is very aware of the need to reduce our carbon footprint and support the village's efforts to counteract climate change. We now have a large blue recycling bin for our hirers to use. We are looking at a facility to recycle clothes, the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the car park and solar panels on the hall roof.

Our cleaner Yvette Gardner has continued to clean the hall and I thank Yvette for the excellent work she has done during the year.

2022 is the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 and the village hall will be supporting this event by organising a free Coffee Shop on Thursday 2nd June and offering the hall free of charge for events organised by the Jubilee Committee during the Jubilee Weekend. We will be holding our Scarecrow Festival on 25th and 26th June and we look forward positively to what promises to be a busy and interesting year for the village hall.