

SYRESHAM VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Syresham Village Hall, Main Road Syresham, a CIO charity with the registration number 1160674, has now been open for almost 5 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.

The last year has seen the village hall resume its normal activities. Our regular users resumed their meetings and we held our annual Scarecrow Festival and Art Exhibition. Our weekly Coffee Shop continued to thrive, thanks to the rota of volunteers who bake cakes and run the event each week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for the excellent service they provide, not only to the village hall, but the village too. I would also like to thank our Booking Clerk Gary and his assistant Steph for the excellent work they are doing. They have increased the number of hall users and it is certainly thanks to them that we have a very healthy diary of 'What's On' and forthcoming events.

I would also like to thank all of the Village Hall Trustees for the great work they have done to support and maintain the hall during the last year.

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 sound system is working well, as indeed is our upgraded broadband. Our hearing loop system requires some improvement and we are working to remedy this in the near future.

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 the use of our hirers and a facility to recycle clothes for the village to use. We continue to look at 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 yet again for the excellent work she has done during the year.

We were very pleased to hold an event in the hall during the Coronation Weekend to thank the volunteers for all the time and effort they give to the village, in order to ensure that our community continues to thrive. We will be holding our Scarecrow Festival on 24th and 25th June and we have our Art Exhibition planned for 13th – 15th October. We look forward positively to what promises to be another busy and interesting year for the village hall and we thank everyone for their continued support.