

WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

Chairmans Report 2024-2025

Delighted to say a very successful year for our Village Hall. Bookings have meant a full schedule during the week with many weekends used for parties, presentations etc.

Fundraisers organised by members of the Village Hall committee have been well supported, that is Bingo sessions at Christmas and Easter and the Craft Fair, which was again a great success. Once again this year we put on a magic show for children, which was hilarious, and so obviously enjoyed by the children (and accompanying adults). The committee arranged this show especially so the younger children have something just for them, and not as a fund raiser. In fact a small loss was the result, but the reward was the sheer joy of the children.

The hall is, of course, available for hire and as well as local groups who use the hall regularly, there are various dance classes which take place several times a week, and of course there is the amazing Poppy Concert which this year meant we had to borrow chairs from the Punch Bowl to accommodate the numbers attending. At this point I would add we have a very good working relationship with the pub. The first Thursday of each month sees the hall full at the now popular community coffee mornings which started after the closure of the Methodist Chapel. Numbers attending has sometimes hit sixty with many new faces and of course the opportunity for old friends to get together.

Several structural, electrical and general maintenance issues were addressed as the Committee strive to make sure the hall continues to be maintained at the highest level. Recently a group from Hampshire who were travelling to North Wales stopped off for a lunch at the hall. I especially mention this because compliments were received not only for the hospitality but also the quality of the hall. Many pictures were taken including the murals that hang from the walls. Whether this was a reflection on the quality of village halls in the south or just a special reflection on our Village Hall, the compliments were gratefully received.

We have addressed the need to replace some chairs and tables. As I reported last year, we had been a little upset by the lack of care some take on putting hall furniture away at the end of a hiring. Nevertheless, we do recognise that "wear and tear" is an issue and also accidents happen.

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I mentioned last year that our secretary for many years was standing back, and the result has been the sharing of duties which to date has worked well. The Hall is managed by volunteer Trustees, some of whom are appointed by several village institutions. Whilst we share many skills we are always grateful for additional support. If anyone, especially with secretarial experience would like to consider helping, the committee would love to hear from you.

Finally, a massive thank you to all my colleagues on the committee and to Pippa who keeps the hall in such good order and clearly helps to provide such an excellent facility for all in the community to enjoy. West Felton Village Hall is a centre piece of our village and one that everyone should be proud of.

DAVID CURTIS
CHAIRMAN
15/05/2025