

Upton Magna Memorial Hall Management Committee Report for May 2022-May 2023

The impact of the Pandemic continued – finances were managed carefully by Kevin Fowler, our treasurer pre-July 2022, and grant applications helped keep the hall accounts healthy, despite the reduced income.

The hall usage has increased, as the economy recovers from the Pandemic.

We lost Stuart Guthrie last year and his loss has been, and continues to be, keenly felt. We are making plans to re-name the bar area in the Hall after him and there will be an event during the summer to officially open the Stuart Guthrie Memorial Bar. We are liaising with Susie Guthrie, Stuart's widow, about a plaque and photo to be displayed.

The Platinum Jubilee event on Sunday 5th June 2022 was a great success, despite the wet weather, and put the Hall at the heart of this community event. Thank you to the Parish Council for the payment towards our costs for this, which included a Ceilidh, children's entertainment, a cake competition and a bar. About 120 people attended throughout the event which ran from 15:00-20:00. Tern Valley Tinkers played for the Ceilidh in the evening. The Parish Council contributed towards the Ceilidh, and other expenses. The Village Hall committee donated free ice-creams and drinks – one item per ticket holder - and we think this was part of the success of the event. Thanks to Ann Dalton, Jeana Bennion and Amanda Hartley-Newton for organising the event, and to the committee members plus partners for setting up and clearing away after the event.

Thank you to the Parish Council for the purchase of two sturdy Surrey seats made of recycled plastic for the patio area. These have enhanced our outdoor space and have been used at various events organised by people booking the Hall.

We have organised several events such as two Arts Alive live music gigs, a village Christmas dinner and some village social nights, when the Hall becomes a tap room.

A maintenance schedule was maintained throughout lockdowns and managed by several members of the Committee. We have had a new aluminium door and frame fitted at the front of the Hall, had the steps and paving re-laid and we have started the process of getting quotes for Estate Railings for the front and side of the car park, using a donation from the parish Council towards the substantial costs. We are also dealing with some issues with the drains which might involve some expense as these may need substantial maintenance work done to prevent further problems.

We are also going to implement a free 90-day trial at the end of May of an online booking and invoicing system, called **Hallmaster**, which will make booking the Hall, checking for availability and invoicing for usage much simpler for Eileen Greenaway, our excellent Booking Secretary, and Ann Dalton, our new Treasurer.

Heartfelt thanks to all the hardworking members of the committee who have done an excellent job over the past year. We could not have managed without such an effective committee chaired by Robin Benie. However, new committee members must be sought this year if hall usage is to continue.

Amanda Hartley-Newton
Secretary for Upton Magna Memorial Hall Management Committee