

Report to the Parham Parish Meeting May 2024

Since the flooding last year we have seen a rise in bookings from those hirers who used to use the village hall in Great Glemham – an unfortunate situation for Great Glemham...but every cloud.

This spring saw our Treasurer, Annette Gray, retire from the Committee and I would like to record our thanks for her sterling work over the years in keeping us on the straight and narrow.

Our Hall Manager, Karina Rose, has agreed to become our new treasurer with some of the duties being split between Karina, Phil Simmons and myself. The Committee, once the names have been changed on the Charity's bank accounts, plan to get a card machine for the bar and the hall so that card payments can be taken. The changes will also allow us, we hope, to receive electronic payments for deposits from Hirers.

The new members (2023) of the Committee, Mary Simmons (Secretary) and a new co-opted member Phil Simmons has worked out well with Phil taking control of the Hall maintenance and grant funding applications; which has seen a new access ramp, new signage and a refurbished Ladies toilets. Phil is currently looking into funding for solar panels, playground equipment to be located on the old canteen site and other works to the Hall to enhance the facilities. We hope that the grant application should be submitted in the next few weeks.

Karina is also exploring the resurrection of the Youth Club which she hopes to have up and running later this year.

Finances

The finances of the Village Hall are improving with, as mentioned above, increased bookings but our outgoings are high as we now have to pay for a Caretaker, Treasurer and Hall Manager.

Due to the hiatus around losing our Treasurer we are late in posting our audited accounts, but rest assured that these will be to the Parish Council and displayed alongside my annual report in the Village Hall and on the two village notice boards once our Secretary has issued them.

Bar

The bar now opens on the first Friday of each month and we hope that the community will take advantage of a chance to meet other villagers and to see the hall and facilities on offer. I would like to thank Alan Gray, Jonathan Cottrell and Micheal Block on their efforts.

General Maintenance

The VHMC is aware of its responsibilities in maintaining the buildings and grounds of the property to a good standard, and we have continued to take this duty seriously.

As mentioned above we have carried out a significant amount of works around the Hall in the last year and will continue to do as funds allow.

The ongoing maintenance issues of this old building and issues with the poor quality construction work of the new extension are a burden on this Committee and we are endeavouring to raise funds through activities and collections where we can.

In Conclusion

We know that everyone leads busy lives but, and I hope that nobody will be offended if I state the obvious, the village hall is here for the benefit of the whole village if the residents of Parham do not participate in supporting their village facilities then we will be facing even tougher times ahead and potentially the loss of these facilities. The more volunteers we have then the less financial burden on the Committees resources.

On a brighter note!

We are always keen to hear of new uses of the hall, in ideas for fundraising, and from volunteers to help at events and by joining the VHMC. We are extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and efficient band of volunteers on the committee. I would like to end by thanking the members of the VHMC for their support and for the tremendous amount of voluntary work they undertake to make the hall the success which I believe it to be.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Goring'. The signature is stylized with overlapping loops and a large circular flourish at the top right.

Paul Goring

(Chairman-Parham Village Hall Management Committee)

The Parham Hut Charity No. 304807