

## VILLAGE HALL REPORT 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

During the year we had a total of ten adult parties, an 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party, two children's birthday parties, a wedding reception, three rabbit shows, use as a polling station, three sessions of one-to-one counselling, SAW used the hall six times and the Community Association twice, a total of 29 bookings, plus the monthly coffee mornings and Pilates, weekly in term time.

We started the year with £16,748.67. Hirings were considerably increased over the previous year, some of that increase is due to raising the hiring rate to £12 an hour, with a subsequent increase in the meter money. During the year we started to take a £100 deposit from hirers. Two deposits were retained, the rest returned. One of the deposits related to the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party where a great deal of damage was done, the other was when the hirer just failed to turn up after we had waited in all day for them. Bookings for teenage parties are no longer accepted. £400 of deposits apply to the current financial year. We are grateful to our District Councillors for a £1,000 grant towards the new noticeboard.

Electricity costs increased by about 50% over the previous year, partly because of the increased hirings and despite us having negotiated a reasonably good rate. Day to day running costs are self-explanatory and are just about being met by our income. However, this does not cover the cost of repairs, improvements and redecoration. We finished the year with £7,860.59, having paid £8,776.80 for repairs to the committee room roof and its redecoration.

We are loathe to increase hire charges again as they are on a par with other local halls. We feel that the advert in the The Five Parishes Magazine could be revamped and we thought we might also advertise in The Elsenham News, given the size of that village, at a cost of £10 a month.

The hall needs re-decoration, both inside and out, and some repairs are also needed. The bar door needs replacing and there are cracks in the walls of++ the lobby. Grants are not available for redecoration and, given the current balance, we may have to look to the Council to help with this work.

Phyllis & Roger Clark

9<sup>th</sup> July, 2024