

Sturton by Stow Village Hall Annual Report 2017-2018 (compiled March 2018)

The Hall has continued to be a popular venue for Villagers, hosting many different activities, welcoming people from near and far. This year it has become more important to the Village, with St. Hughes Church still being unusable and the loss of the Chapel, the hall is now being used for family worship on a regular basis. The PCC also host the weekly "Drop In" coffee morning at the hall each Thursday.

The Committee have served the Village for another year looking after the fabric of the building and renewing and improving facilities whilst maintaining reserves for any emergencies that might occur. The large tree to the rear of the hall shed a large branch and had to be removed, fortunately no one was hurt and the tree did not fall on the hall.....

Purchases during the past year have included 6 new LED stage lights (courtesy of Reg Shore), two new ovens (to replace old ones that failed), four new notice boards to replace grubby old ones, 10 new tables and 30 new chairs for the upstairs room that has also had a new carpets and been redecorated, thanks to the big lottery fund. The outside wooden surfaces have also been repainted. Some brickwork has been repointed and a few water damaged bricks replaced. We are also looking at issues concerning roof drainage that seems to be under pressure during stormy weather. We may have to dig new soakaways, but in any case, are going to fit gutter brushing to try and stop leaves and moss being carried into the downpipes and causing blockages.

After nine years at the Hall, providing a valuable barbers service, Liz retired, just before Christmas. We were fortunate to be able to find another Lady to take over the service. Sian has settled in and is open for business on Fridays and Saturdays as Liz before.

We have continued to operate the monthly market; this is as much a social event as it is a trading one and is enjoyed by a regular crowd of Villagers who make use of the book sale and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Our regular users continue to be supported by the community and are making good use of the Halls facilities. The History Society in particular is seeing increasing numbers attending their monthly talks, with a record 80+ attending a talk by Curtis of Lincoln. Jill Reeves has transferred her sewing classes from Lincoln to the hall, when her venue at Ruddocks became unavailable. On Tuesday she teaches mainly quilt making and on Friday her pupils work on their own projects. The classes are very popular and Jill has booked the hall until the end of this year. Short mat bowling is well attended on Monday evenings and Line Dancers meet every Tuesday with regular "Party Nights" when they have a live act to dance to. Except on the third Thursday of each month when the Women's Institute meet, as this is being written, they are organising an open to all evening with a talk by Dan Ellin. He is going to talk about women's role in Bomber Command and is actively seeking new stories of ladies involvement in this respect. Art classes are continuing on Wednesdays and pre-school children attend the Edward Bear playschool on Wednesday afternoons. Steve McConville provides Judo classes on Thursday evenings in two sessions for different age groups.

A Touch of Class meet every Tuesday morning to prepare for their performances. At the end of January, they put on their annual pantomime with the help and support of schoolchildren and a few brave men who have their once yearly outing on the boards. This year the panto was Robin Hood and it was the 25th anniversary production by the Group. They donated their profit of over £1,100 to the Village Hall fund. They are already writing the script for next year's Panto "The Snow Queen" and coming up on the 27th April, they will present an "Evening of Entertainment. Our thanks go out to A Touch of Class.

As well as these activities the Hall is used by individuals for their Parties for all ages and all sorts of other occasions when their homes are just not big enough.

Looking forward to the coming year, the committee have decided that we will further improve the upstairs room by upgrading the heaters, adding more electrical outlet sockets and perhaps providing a projector and screen. This will make the room more useful for a variety of uses and will hopefully bring in extra income. We are also planning some work to upgrade the Gents toilets. We welcome suggestions from the community to identify further areas of improvement that we need to address. Also on the agenda, is the possibility of installing solar panels.

The Committee have decided that we will also work towards employing a bookings clerk/ caretaker to relieve the pressure on individual committee members who currently fulfil these roles on a voluntary basis. We are one member down following the sudden sad death of Clare Farrow. We are hoping that we might find some new members at the AGM. The continued support of the Parish Council is appreciated and long may it continue.