

Report from Nikky Shergold, Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees, May 2023

Following last year's Village Hall Trustee AGM in April which saw the resignation of four trustees, the group seemed rather depleted. Since then we have welcomed new trustees, who all represent various clubs and organisations within the village.

The current list is as follows:

Nikky Shergold – Chair – Needles and Pins
Angela Cossey – Treasurer – Naunton Nippers
Amanda Bentley – Secretary – PCC
Pat Boulton – Social Committee
Richard Amphlett – Recreation Ground
Bill Nesbitt – Cricket Club
Alison Pinner – Expertise in running a large community trust in London
Nicki Gibberson – Website designer/marketing/advertising
Keith Russell – Parish Council

Last April we were still experiencing the aftermath of the pandemic. The various clubs and activities were resuming regular use of the hall on reduced hire charges and this was sustainable in the short term because of the grants the village hall had received from Government funding.

In order for the village hall to retain its healthy contingency fund, the general running costs should be met by hire charges and fundraising. Throughout the year this has become increasingly difficult with significant rising costs and fuel bills. Reluctantly, full hire charges were reinstated last year and an additional increase was made in the first quarter of 2023.

The village hall continues to provide a wonderful venue for the various events and activities that take place weekly and throughout the year. Currently the regular hires are:

- Naunton Nippers
- Needles & Pins
- Aikido
- Garden Club
- Naunton breakfasts
- Table tennis
- Pilates

(The PCC has now resumed the cinema in the church.)

This year's events have been well attended and continue to be popular, along with a couple of new ideas too:

- Fish and fizz
- Curry night
- PCC 'Pauls Talk' - Burns Night & Macmillan Coffee Morning
- New Year's Eve Party
- Christmas Fair
- Rain or Shine Theatre

A new staircase has been installed to provide safer access to a much needed, but underused, storage space. This has freed up valuable space in the store room for regular users.

A designated office space for the Trust and the PC at the top of the stairs has almost been completed. We can now offer storage space for equipment for prospective users.

A new website is under construction with the aim of increasing wider publicity and overall use of the hall.

A building condition survey is to be carried out so that a maintenance plan is put in place, with a designated budget.

The burst pipe above the lounge area during the very cold spell has caused significant damage. Tim Black did a sterling job of doing a temporary repair, enabling the New Years Eve Party to still go ahead. The full repair will be completed when the insurers have agreed the cost.

Fundraising is high on our plan for next year as all the trustees are committed to maintaining the building, increasing our income and providing ongoing use for the Naunton, and wider, community.