Village Hall Chair’s Report April 2025

I’m pleased to report that year on year the Village Hall continues to thrive. The hall is still being well utilised for regular classes – Stay and Play, Pilates, Yoga, Dancefit, Nia Dance, Friday Teas and Fika coffee mornings along with external hirings, mainly for children’s parties, family events and the Parish Council. We have unfortunately lost a couple of classes in the past year but have had extra support from those usually run at Barrowden Village Hall whilst they’ve been having their rebuild work carried out although they have now returned home.

The Church have again continued to support use of the hall holding their Harvest Supper and Mulled Wine event and we again held the Macmillan Coffee fundraiser in September and the Annual Christmas Quiz Night, this proving to be the most successful fundraising event of the year. We also provided the mulled wine and mince pies for after the Carols on The Green event in December and Carole Pearce- Smith resurrected the Village Safari supper with much success in the summer. We’re always open to ideas for events - so any suggestions are most welcome!

We have begun 2025 with the hall being busy through the week with the usual activities and private events. We have also held a Thank You coffee morning event to thank all our village volunteers as part of ACRE’s Village Halls Week in March. I would like to especially thank those not officially committee members who take an active part in keeping the hall ‘ticking’ over. They include Sally Smith for running the Friday Teas, Pete Hodson for taking care of the flower pots and other gardening tasks and Sue Hodson and Pat Bellamy for helping out running the Fika coffees occasionally. We also would like to thank any bakers who donate cakes too, (especially Sue!), and other volunteers who step up when we have our mainitance and clean up days.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank Tim Smith who is standing down as a committee member this year and has been part of the team from when I took in the role of chair in 2019. He has made a huge contribution to the running of the hall and the refurbishment project, from cooking veggie chilli’s on demand to mending the gates! He will be truly missed as part of the village, as will Sally, and we wish them both well with their new adventures when they move out of the village. We hope they both will pop back to events – I promise I won’t press gang them too often into helping out!

I welcome our new committee members and thank as always the existing ones – we have big plans afoot to complete making the Village Hall even more of a valuable community asset and look forward to all our forthcoming events over the coming year.

Tracy Steward April 2025