Village Hall Chair’s Report April 2024

We have had yet another successful year since my last report. The hall is being well utilised for regular classes – Stay and Play, Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, Dancefit, Tai Chi, Nia Dance, Friday Teas and Fika coffee mornings along with external hirings, mainly for children’s parties, and the Parish Council.

The Church have continued to support use of the hall holding their Harvest Supper, Mulled Wine and Burns Night events and we have again held the Macmillan Coffee fundraiser and the Christmas Quiz Night, along with an extremely popular 80’s disco party night in September last year, where we donated half the profits to Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall. We also provided the mulled wine and mince pies for after the Carols on The Green event run by Chater Community Choir in December.

We have begun 2024 with the hall being fully utilised through the week with the usual activities. We were lucky to have a third repeat visit in March from the folk duet Ninebarrow. Although local ticket sales were disappointing compared to previous times it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and those who travelled to the gig from out of county complimented the hall and the welcome we gave. Jon and Jay also said how much they enjoy performing in the hall and hopefully will make another return visit in the coming years.

The hall diary is already filling up with private bookings and we are already planning a party night in October with The Other Band along with our usual Fika monthly coffee mornings and the Christmas Quiz. The funds raised through the last years events have paid for a Bluetooth receiver and speaker system for streaming music in the hall for classes and private events.

Thanks needs to go to 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 (which definitely encourages us all to come along once a month for some sweet treats!) and other volunteers who step up when we have our mainitance and clean up days.

I have now been chair for 5 years and am proud to say that with the support of committee members over that time and from a strong core of villagers, the hall has undergone a successful refurbishment and now is running as a vital resource in the village.

Tracy Steward April 2024