

# Fovant Village Hall

## Chairman's Report

### 2023-2024

This year had been a fairly quiet year for the village hall with everything running smoothly and no disasters happening or major works carried out. But then we had so much rain that although Martin Wallis put sandbags at the door the flood waters ran around the building causing concerns for the hall floor.

The heating system has coped well with the cold weather and an extra air-source heat pump has been installed in the small room to help keep that room warm and to give some background heat for the toilet area and the storeroom.

An airbrick has been installed in the kitchen to help with the condensation problem.

In September our electricity supplier was changed to British Gas Lite and the wi-fi sorted out with a new router.

The hall floor is pitted and looks very grubby due to the tap dancing class: how to remedy this is still under discussion and of course there are now distorted floorboards. The internal door needs to be replaced but until the floor is decided upon that cannot be bought.

The need for a fire-risk assessment was made compulsory and that has now been carried out and the fire equipment checked and replaced where needed. We are still investigating the possibility of a lay-by on Tisbury road side for the benefit of disabled people using the hall.

The pebble picture to celebrate the late Queen's jubilee has been installed at the side of the village hall and a tree planted. The iron jubilee bench has now been moved to the side of the pond and the wooden bench is awaiting a decision on where it will go but in the meantime is still outside the hall.

Bookings for the village hall are slightly down. Jenny Berwyn-Jones who had run a very popular seated exercise class for many years had to give up due to falling numbers.

We do have a Pilates class on a Wednesday morning and Yoga on a Tuesday evening.

Every Thursday morning between 10.00 and 11.00am there is of course the coffee morning run by a rota of volunteers and provides a moment for all ages to come together to exchange news and to chat. It is open to everyone and new people are made to feel very welcome and soon feel very much at home.

Mike Carey, who has been on the committee for many years as both treasurer and chairman will be standing down at our AGM and in the meantime has gradually handed over to Ken Tymms our new treasurer who joined our committee in October. Ken has been working hard to change our bank which should hopefully make banking more straightforward. Beryl Patten is also standing down at our AGM. Beryl has served on the committee for many years as secretary, helping to run events and keeping the hall stocked with essentials.

At this time I would like to thank both Mike and Beryl for all their years on the hall committee and for supporting me as the chairman.

The hall committee have the responsibility to keep the hall in good repair for the use of the people of Fovant and continue to run events to raise funds to do this and to provide enjoyable evenings for the people of Fovant. There are quiz nights in October and April, a ploughman's lunch in December and for the third year now a cheese and wine evening March. In addition we arranged a Music Night with Mitchell and Vincent in November which was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. All of these events rely completely on participation by villagers and the committee try hard to keep the costs down.

Finally we are actively seeking new people to join our committee. It is a great way to meet people and to take an active part in village life. Committee names and contact details are on our notice board outside and you can talk to any of us to find out what is involved.

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