

Charlton Village Hall – Report for the Village Hall

April 2023

It has been a good year for the hall, finances are in good order, we are working on delivering our 3 year strategic plan which gives us the focus areas for investment up until 2024. Some of the opportunities require fundraising, others we have been able to just get on and do, such as the wifi connection.

Regular bookings are up this year and the hall has welcomed more parties than in previous years.

We continue to support the pre-school in exploring and extending the hall to give them a dedicated facility. This would keep the pre-school in its location, with the added benefit of releasing the 2 rooms, kitchen and toilets for use on weekdays.

We have invested in the Play Area, and achieved a satisfactory ROSPA report, with low risks across all the areas. Thanks to Victoria Beadle for taking the previous report and corralling a group of happy helpers to complete remedial actions. We will now have a monthly maintenance group one evening a month – April – June to keep on top of this area. This will use the newly created Charlton Crew whatsapp group.

The boiler has been giving us some trouble this year, and we have had some maintenance issues with the main hall floor and damp in the outside wall.

For the third year running we put up and decorated a village Christmas tree and hosted Carols in the Car Park, which is now an annual village event. All money raised went to the local foodbank. The Village Hall committee has agreed to pay for the tree out of funds for this year.

The Village Hall committee was pleased to be able to support the erection of the flagpole. And we think it is a great addition to the village.

Trustee Update – The hall has been able to retain a committed group of trustees. We said goodbye this year to Ian Jones and Sarah Marshall. Ian has remained as a supporter of the hall and is helping out with maintenance. We welcomed Sarah Seiger as our new booking clerk, replacing the previous Sarah. And Katy Snelling has joined as a trustee. It has been really positive having Wayne as our Parish Council Representative. The pre-school has become more involved in the committee too which is great.

Areas of focus for 2023

- Repaint of the Hall – all areas. We have set aside funds for this
- Boiler decision before we need to turn it on again
- Repair of the main hall floor
- Secure grants to support bigger projects in the hall e.g heating system change, new windows and curtains