

Yaxham Village Amenities Association

Report for the year 1st January to 31st December 2023

The past year has been extremely successful in terms of bookings at the hall. A glance at the calendar will show that the hall is occupied by various groups throughout the week and there has been an increase in the number of children's parties at weekends. The downside of that is that the hall may not be available for last-minute bookings that cannot be made in advance, ie wakes. Sadly, a number of people from the village passed away recently and the hall wasn't available. However, we are sure that it is appreciated that without regular bookings+ the hall would not be financially viable, nor would there be the broad range of activities available to those in the local area.

As you may be aware, we have been without a Chair since January 2021. I have covered many aspects of the role of Chair and am happy to continue as Treasurer, but struggle dealing with matters that would usually be handled by a Chair and feel that I cannot continue in the two roles. We are very keen to recruit more trustees to keep the Village Hall, including the room in which you now sit, available for meetings such as this, and invite anybody interested to speak with us about coming on board. It is not an onerous commitment and the more trustees we have, the easier everything becomes for all.

The biggest project during 2023, aside from general maintenance and repairs, was the removal, redecoration and replacement of the carpet in the Community Room, which has improved the space enormously for informal meetings and social events like the Community Café.

In terms of fundraising, the Community Café continues to thrive. Other events included a Mama Mia evening and a New Year's Eve party, all of which were enjoyed by many residents of the village and wider community. We are limited in expanding village events due to a consistent lack of support by volunteers.

Community Car Scheme

The Community Car Scheme continues to be used regularly by a small, but extremely grateful, number of people in the village. In 2023 seventy journeys were made for thirteen different people. We increased prices by a small amount to take account of cost of fuel and are grateful to the Parish Charity for subsidising the scheme. Passengers pay two thirds of the cost of each journey, with a third being paid to the driver from funds granted by the Parish Charity.

We have started the process of obtaining DBS checks for drivers and hope to have completed these very soon. We are always keen to recruit new drivers. It has been very rare that we haven't been able to find a driver for a journey but, the more drivers we have, the less likely it is that we will be unable to assist. If you would like to know more about becoming a driver, please contact Trudy Gust or Caroline Thorpe.