



Steeple Ashton Village Hall

REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL 2022 - 23

2022 began with the Village Hall being used to raise money for Ukraine - the coffee morning raised a sum of over £1600 for the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Maintenance and improvements included two new bespoke planters for the front of the hall, replacement of the old amplifiers and speakers and the installation of a DVD/CD player. The latter will allow hirers to show their own films, or compilations of photographs to celebrate personal occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries or weddings. Music can be played as background either on its own or accompanying a slide show.

The stage, which had several years ago been reduced in size by the much-needed storage cupboards at the back, has now got a set of versatile stage extensions which allow more room on stage for performers and their equipment, making it not only a more useable space, but safer as well. The extensions can also be set out in a variety of ways, including as a catwalk, perhaps for a fashion show!

The purchase of two beer coolers for the bar area have already proved very useful. It has become clear that having a good working bar area is important if we are to continue to raise funds for the hall. This also applies to the kitchen and as a start we have installed a commercial dishwasher and are very grateful to the Parish Council for their donation towards this. However, there is a long way to go to bring both areas up to date so that we can provide up-to-date, hygienic and attractive spaces to offer potential hirers.

In May 2022 the total *refurbishment* of the old heating system for £1300, rather than the total replacement at a cost of over £10000, was a welcome outcome following a site visit by Westex Heating, who did an excellent job which hopefully will see the system continue for some time. We are very grateful again to the Parish Council for funding this important refurbishment.

The latter part of the year saw several very enjoyable events where the committee & other volunteers ran a bar, organised teas and cakes and held a Candlelit Supper, all of which raised funds towards our Kitchen & Bar project. This is a big project and there is still a long way to go as, although we can apply for grants, we have to match-fund and will need these funds in place before applying.

Almost a year to the day, the hall was once more used to raise money for the DEC when Turkey & Syria suffered horrendous earthquakes. Once again the village raised over £1700, an amazing result.

Of course none of this could happen without a committee to manage it. The Village Hall, like the majority of village halls, is not a young building and requires ongoing monitoring of maintenance and repairs. It needs people to open and close it, to switch heating on ready for the hirers, to show them how things work, to engage with the community, to have ideas and to be committed to helping their community.

Unfortunately, we have no regular financial support from County Councils and so we have to earn an income from hiring and by holding events in order for everyone to continue to enjoy this excellent space. Being a small hall, we cannot charge our hirers huge amounts and yet we have been subject to the increase in electricity costs just like everyone else. It is a fine balance and not always easy.

Finally, we have had so many lovely comments from people who have used the hall, which makes it all worth while and we would like to thank everyone who has supported the Village Hall during this last year. Going forward, we will need your continued help:- to consider joining the committee, to think of ways you could use the hall and to spread the word locally about the great facilities provided by Steeple Ashton Village Hall. Thank you.