

Knowstone Parish Hall Annual Activity Report 2023

This has been an excellent year for the Parish Hall Committee with another major event, the King's Coronation Afternoon Tea party along with the usual offering of regular events.

We are fortunate to have committed members in our team who are willing to take time from their busy lives for the benefit of their community. We had had a few changes to the team. Ken Dykes and Jeanie Hicks have left the team. I am sure you will join me in thanking both Ken and Jeanie for their service to our community. Fortunately new members have joined; Kim Wootten and Kim Newton. Sadly Kim Wootten resigned later in the year. The current Committee members are:

Chairperson: Tiina Paju-Pomfret
 Treasurer: Wendy Sweet
 Secretary: Liz Barrett
 Members: John Pomfret
 David Barrett
 Catherine Whatcott
 Phil Dey (maintenance)
 Gill Smith (communications)
 Martin Smith (maintenance)
 Kim Newton (kitchen upgrade lead)



During the past year we successfully delivered the following schedule of events:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Coffee mornings	These are always well received with delicious cakes on offer. Most were in aid of Hall funds. The purchase of two outdoor picnic benches were a good addition allowing refreshments to be enjoyed in the sunshine.
Coronation Afternoon Tea	The team pulled out all the stops to organise a memorable Coronation Afternoon tea to celebrate HM King Charles' Coronation. The Parish Council had kindly offered to sponsor the event. Almost 70 parishioners attended, and they enjoyed a prosecco/wine toast to the King, sandwiches, scones with jam & cream and cupcakes.
Ceilidh 19th May	For the first time in the hall's history, we organised a Ceilidh with Natasha's bar and outside catering van. It was a roaring success hence a new Ceilidh is planned for May 2024
Autumn Fayre and Craft and Produce Show	Due to the coronation celebrations, the team decided to organise an autumn fayre instead of the usual summer one. The Autumn Fayre was a great success with both the main Hall with its competition entries and stalls along with Tea Room being busy all day. Overall we made £639.20 profit for the hall which is a very good result. This consisted of takings from the Tea Room, Raffle, Tombola and Competition entries. The competitions were well entered and showed the creativity our parishioners have. The scarecrow competition proved to be a real hit.
Quiz Nights	Another new event suggested and hosted by Kevin and Soo Tompkins from the village. The two events were a great success with a good turnout, lots of competitiveness and laughter.
Skittles Evenings	Skittles evenings are back on the schedule for the wintertime and have proven to be very popular, as has Natasha's bar.
Christmas Bingo	Our traditional Christmas Bingo was back again and we had a good turnout and raised a record amount of funds. In good community spirit 10 volunteers put together their versions of our traditional Bingo Boxes. Our special prize meat boxes were packed with delicious local meat thanks to the Caves (Ford Farm) and Swanzys (Great Wadham)! A great evening of Christmas Cheer.

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Beetle Drive	Another old favourite was back on the schedule. Fun and sausage casserole was enjoyed by everyone.
Together with the Parish Church Committee	
Harvest Festival supper and auction	Another traditional event was back, and the team helped with setup, decorations and putting away the furniture. The Harvest was well attended, and delicious food enjoyed by all.
Christmas Afternoon Tea & Fair	We helped raise funds for the Parish Church and had a very successful day offering lovely cakes & refreshments. Thelma's Christmas stall also did very well with her lovely wreaths and other decorations.

Plans going forward include the following events along with the regular coffee mornings and skittles:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Quiz Night 9 th Feb	Back by popular demand hosted by David & Liz
Wine Tasting 8 th Mar	Looking to bring back the wine tasting evening
Coffee Morning & treasure Hunt 20 th Apr	A little twist to our normal coffee morning
Ceilidh 24 th May	Back by popular demand

We are also looking into bringing back the Film Nights to brighten up the darker months.

We have started to use the Knowstone Facebook (FB) page for advertising and sharing posts across similar local FB pages. We also now have a dedicated person looking after the communications and advertising.

The Hall is also used for regular events organised by some of our parishioners. These include:

- Pilates classes
- Book club
- Line dancing (new)
- Craft & Chat (new)
- Yoga (new)

Parishioners have also used the Hall for other events such as meetings, birthday parties, and wakes.

Hall maintenance has become an important discussion topic, and the maintenance team has made several improvements. These have included new piping for the gas tank and clearing the overgrown vegetation around the tank. The team have also replaced lights with more energy efficient ones, coordinated the EV charging point installation and solved the boiler issue. The Hall fire security has been improved with new alarms system control unit, alarms and heat detectors installed in appropriate locations. Hall windows have been cleaned inside and outside. Electrical works for the generator have been completed. To improve energy efficiency the boiler is now programmed to come on/off when there are activities happening in the Hall. Some of the external doors have also been fitted with supplementary door seals. Also, the badminton court tape has been replaced.

Special Projects. We have also identified that there is problem with the stone wall at the front and are currently in process of investigating the best course of action. A structural engineer has assessed the site, and this may result in a significant investment to rectify. We are also looking to improve our kitchen facilities to bring them to a modern standard and have established a sub-team to progress this. Quotations have been obtained for both projects but will need to be updated as the Batsworthy fund has been closed for the past year. We will shortly be able to apply to the Batsworthy fund for funding for both projects.

Here's to another successful year ahead full of fun and beneficial activities. We are looking forward to welcoming new team members and anyone who wants to come and get involved in any of our events and activities.

Tiina Paju-Pomfret

Chairperson