

## **Wingham Village Hall Committee Report for Annual Parish Assembly 2022**

In October 2021 a long-awaited AGM was held after being delayed from January 2021 due to Covid, at this meeting the old committee stood down and a new Management Committee elected.

A huge thanks must be extended to Tash Redfearn, Danny Swan and Enid Brice who diligently kept the hall alive during their extended tenure.

The new committee comprising of Melanie (Mel) Smith (Chair & Bookings), Ken Matthews (Treasurer) and Amanda Burrows (Secretary) have been hard at work trying to revitalize the halls fortunes which was so savagely hit by the Covid pandemic.

We are now fully open and although a few hirers have not been able to return, we are pleased to see that most are back and that we now also have new regular hirers on board which includes a Dance Class and possibly a Badminton group.

Maintenance continues to be a big priority and there are several major projects which we will need to attend to as the year progresses. Our biggest challenge will be the repair and resurfacing of the Main Hall flooring which has deteriorated to a point where splinters have been picked up by a number of users. This is potentially a major expense, but we will do all within our power to keep this to a minimum.

Finances of the hall are also a concern; a special grant of £8000 received from DDC in 2020 and 2021 will now not be available in 2022. Hopefully the hall will return to near or greater capacity than previous years and our situation will recover.

The continued support to our finances from Wingham Parish Council has also been vital over the past year and their grant has helped us to reduce the hire fees to Wingham residents which we continue to uphold.

The new committee are committed and have enthusiastically planned new events throughout the year; these include: the Boot Fair (February), Craft Fair (April) along with a special Scarecrow and Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations with others to come. These hopefully will reawaken awareness of our lovely village hall and at the same time raise much needed funds.

Mel Smith

Chair, Wingham Village Hall Committee  
April 2022