

Boughton Village Hall

April 2025

Chairman's report

For the year ended 31.1.2025

While the last 12 months have not been without their challenges for the Village Hall, I am very pleased to report that the committee has made huge strides in increasing bookings, holding events and putting the bank account back into the black after several years of losses as we look forward to starting the exciting renovation project.

A full copy of our audited accounts will be available at our AGM in May but, in summary, we've gone from a loss of £2,194 in the previous financial year to a surplus of £11,000, which represents an operating surplus of £1,400. My thanks go to Andy Stables for being our treasurer.

As many of you will know, David Whalley had been the Chair of this committee for several decades. We are very grateful to him for his years of service. Our long-standing secretary, Jenny Bullock, and hardworking treasurer Helen Chappell also stepped down. Obviously, this has meant quite a bit of upheaval and change but this also presents an opportunity to have some fresh exciting ideas.

Bookings are up significantly. Much of the credit for this goes to new booking secretary Karen Fletcher, who is incredibly responsive to enquiries. A soon-to-be-launched digital booking will also make booking easier for those who wish to do this online, this comes after seeking feedback from our regular hirers. We are also mindful that the Hall is benefitting from bookings (mainly the regular dance classes) that have relocated from Buckton Fields Primary School. Once the school – and the new community facility at Buckton Fields is open we are prepared to have to work harder to secure bookings.

This situation makes ensuring the Hall is modern, fit-for-purpose and providing facilities expected by hirers in 2025/26 even more important. We are incredibly grateful to Boughton Parish Council for the substantial CIL grant, but also the offer to reclaim the VAT on the works, we are very excited to get this project underway. Currently, we are awaiting confirmation from the contractors to see whether they can start the main works in August this year, we would very much like to see the work complete in September.

Aside from the CIL funding, the committee has worked hard to secure other funding. So far, Boughton Village Hall has won just under £5,000 from the Northamptonshire Community Foundation and a £20,000 grant from the National Lottery's Community Fund. The latter has been spent on removing asbestos and installing a new, more efficient heating system. In addition to this, we received an extremely generous donation from Eurobrands Food. Adding to this we have hosted some well attended fundraising and community events, such as the village quiz, regular monthly coffee mornings and a fabulous Christmas event that we hosted along with Boughton Pocket

Park. There are various plans in the coming year to increase these community events such as a comedy evening, wine tasting, a Friday evening fast food popup and a return from the 'Boughtones'. As soon as the CIL work is complete, we plan to begin monthly film evenings. The committee does not take any of this support for granted and values every parishioner who attends these events.

We are always excited to welcome new members to our committee!