

Woodhurst Village Hall Report to Parish Meeting 2009/10

Background

Woodhurst Village Hall is constituted by a trust deed made by Woodhurst Parish Council dated 6th March 1987. The management committee has the responsibility for the management of the hall (the property) for the use of inhabitants of the Parish of Woodhurst (without distinction of political, religious or other opinions) including for the use of meetings, lectures, classes, recreation and leisure, with the object of improving the conditions of life of the inhabitants of the parish.

Management Committee

Members of the committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall, casual vacancies may be filled during the term. During the past year the following served as members of the committee:

Chair	Mr Simon West
Vice Chair	Mr Nicholas Dowding
Secretary	Miss Annabel Armstrong
Treasurer	Mrs Tracy Bass
Letting Officer	Mr Simon West
St John's PCC Rep	Mr Alistair Marr
Parish Council Rep	Mr Alistair Marr
Other Member	Mrs Ginny Tack
	Mr Gary Davis
	Mr Bill Draper
	Ms Dee Crick

Annual Review

Through the continued hard work of all the committee members and volunteer villagers we have had another successful year of bringing the village community together at the Hall through family, social and fundraising events.

During the year the Hall committee has arranged the Easter Egg Hunt, a Halloween children's event, the Christmas Quiz and 100 Club and a number of Village Bar nights.

Some events continue to be a combined effort between the active groups in the Village (the Hall, Church and Natural Woodhurst); the Woodhurst Feast Week in particular acts as a fun and fundraising week when the village seems to join together as it has done for many hundreds of years. Feast Week is arranged by a small committee with representatives from the Church, Hall and NW.

Feast Week 2009 started with the Church service (once again superbly researched and arranged by Shirley Firth) which looked at the lives of people who have lived in the village from 1220 – 2009. A flower and history display in the Church was followed by the scarecrow festival, garden fete and cream teas; Andy and Sara again set up Art Attack mid-week and we finished with an Evening of live music and dancing at Manor

Farm. Feast Week raised £1,045.79 which was split between the Church, Natural Woodhurst and the Village Hall.

The Hall has been and continues to be used as a venue for a number of different events including a Polling Station for HDC, the meeting room for Woodhurst Parish Plan Group, the Parish Council and Village meetings such as tonight's.

The Hall has been privately booked during the year by residents for a number of funeral wakes and as a meeting venue for some out of village clubs and societies. The Hall's facilities have been made available to the Church for their Advent Fair. Woodhurst in Bloom/Natural Woodhurst have used the Hall for their planting up evening.

The Line Dancers who had been longstanding users of the Hall are not now meeting here and as such the Hall is now available on a Wednesday evening should any club or individual wish to make use of it.

Forthcoming events planned by the Committee this year include Feast Week events, bar nights, Halloween children's event and the Christmas quiz.

A formal letting agreement is being used for all bookings, attached to this is a copy of the Hiring Rules. A hiring agreement has been drawn up for the Village Hall equipment which is available for hire to villagers. Copies of these are available on the Woodhurst Website or from Simon West.

The Premises

As reported last year, the Village Hall Committee remain concerned about the overall structure and integrity of the Hall which is nearing the end of its useful life. The Hall itself does not offer particularly welcoming or flexible accommodation. The Chairman and Secretary have met an architect who is producing some drawings for consideration of a possible replacement. Once these are available occupiers of neighbouring properties and the Parish Council will be invited to a meeting to review and comment on these before the next step is taken of consulting again with the planners at HDC prior to a planning application being made and grant funding sought. Last year's report gave more details to what we are hoping the new building will provide and look like.

Finances

A full financial report will be made available at the Village Hall AGM on the 18 May.

Annabel Armstrong

Secretary, Woodhurst Village Hall Committee

19 April 2010