

**Woodhurst Village Hall
Report to Parish Meeting
2012/13**

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 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	Post not filled
Secretary	Mrs Annabel Farbon
Treasurer	Mrs Tracy Bass
Letting Officer	Mr Simon West
Parish Council Rep	Mr Alistair Marr
Other Member	Mr Gary Davis; Katie Prescott

Annual Review

Through the ongoing hard work of all the committee members and volunteer villagers we have had another year of bringing the village community together at the Hall through family, social and fundraising events. During the year the Hall committee has arranged a number of Village Bar Nights, the Christmas Quiz, 100 Club Draw and, for the third year running a pensioners Christmas lunch where 31 Woodhurst pensioners enjoyed a full home cooked Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Donations from villagers enabled the lunch to be laid on at no cost and in fact a small profit towards next year's event will be carried forward.

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 those that wish to in the village join together, as has happened for many hundreds of years. Feast Week is arranged by a small group of people with representatives from the Church, Hall and NW.

Feast Week 2012 started with the Church service (once again superbly researched and arranged by Shirley Firth) which looked at farming and agriculture in Woodhurst. This was followed by cream teas (relocated at the last minute to the VH due to the adverse weather) and a mid-week children's treasure hunt kindly organised by Amanda Augstein. Natural Woodhurst organised a bat walk and bbq, the annual garden competitions and a photographic competition with 12 selected photographs then being made up into a calendar which was sold in aid of the church.

Feast Week 2012 raised £853.70 which was split between the Church, Natural Woodhurst and the Village Hall. In addition the calendar funds from Natural Woodhurst to the church came to £288.

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 the Parish Council, Natural Woodhurst events and Village meetings. A children's drama and singing class is also a regular user.

The Hall has been privately booked during the year by residents for a number of family events. The Hall's facilities have been made available to the Church for their Advent Fair and for refreshments after an inter-parish service and the church poetry and prose evening.

Forthcoming events planned by the Committee this year include Feast Week events, bar nights, the Christmas quiz and another pensioners lunch.

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. Additional equipment has been purchased during the year for the kitchen including food warmers and additional crockery, these will ease those events where the committee and helpers are responsible for catering for larger numbers and have been hired out during the year for various villagers functions. Copies of these are available on the Woodhurst Website.

The Premises

As previously reported, the Village Hall Committee continue to investigate the replacement of the Hall which is nearing the end of its useful life but are struggling to secure architects drawings at a reasonable cost with which to take forward consultation and planning and funding applications. An environmentally sensitive building with optimum energy saving measures is being sought.

PAT testing has been completed to all portable electrical equipment, fire extinguisher servicing takes place annually and some remedial work to the hard wiring to bring the system up to modern standards has been approved and is being arranged at a cost of £857 plus VAT. A pest control contract has been put in place. Ground maintenance (particularly the collection of leaves falling from trees in adjacent gardens and weed control for the gravel) is undertaken by committee members. A working party is to be arranged to cut back the overhanging hedge/shrubs from The Chapel, subject to first notifying the new property owners.

Finances

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

Annabel Farbon

Secretary, Woodhurst Village Hall Committee

10th April 2013