

**Woodhurst Village Hall  
Report to Parish Meeting  
2013/14**

**Background**

Woodhurst Village Hall is constituted by a trust deed made by Woodhurst Parish Council dated 6<sup>th</sup> 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. The Village Hall is registered with the Charity Commission (No: 297010).

**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;

**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 fourth year running a pensioners Christmas lunch where 26 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 Natural Woodhurst.

Feast Week 2013 had as its main theme the subject of "trees" and thanks as always go to Shirley Firth for the time and research she put in to compile a very interesting survey. This subject appeared in the Church Service which started Feast Week, the Quiz Sheet, the Art Competition and the Photo Competition. 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. There was also a Summer Quiz as part of Feast Week in the Village Hall and the week finished with Cream Teas at Fullards Farm where all the result of the various competitions, the reintroduced Scarecrow Festival and the 100 Club were announced.

Feast Week 2013 raised £1,000.35. The proceeds are normally split between the Church, Natural Woodhurst and the Village Hall but this year the proceeds went towards the purchase of

some new folding tables and display boards which will benefit all three organisations and help reduce the time and effort taken to set up and put away events in and around the village.

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 has also been 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 the re-dedication service in the Church by the Bishop of Ely in June 2013.

Forthcoming events planned by the Committee this year include a Pudding Club, Feast Week events, Village Bars to be held on Easter Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> October, the Christmas quiz (06.12.14) and another pensioners lunch (07.12.14).

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. Equipment now held by the Village Hall kitchen includes catering scale food warmers, crockery, cutlery, glasses and serving bowls 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 the terms of hire are available on the Woodhurst Website.

### **The Premises**

As previously reported but with no further progress having been made during the year, 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, possibly of a "barn style" incorporating optimum energy saving measures and with a designated furniture store area is being sought.

PAT testing has been completed to all portable electrical equipment, fire extinguisher servicing takes place annually and some remedial electrical works are under review. A pest control contract is 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 cut back the overhanging vegetation from The Chapel in summer 2013.

### **Finances**

A full financial report will be made available at the Village Hall AGM to be held on 14.05.14.

A demand has recently been received from HDC for non-domestic rates for the financial year just gone and for 2014-2015 for a combined amount of over £1,400. This has been appealed and a mandatory 80% rate relief has been granted; application forms for a discretionary relief of the remaining 20% have now been received and will be completed and submitted with supporting paperwork. Rates have not previously been charged on the Village Hall, services provided by HDC for the Hall are limited to around 4 wheely bin collections per annum.

### **Annabel Farbon**

Secretary, Woodhurst Village Hall Committee

16<sup>h</sup> April 2014