

**Woodhurst Village Hall  
Report to Parish Meeting  
2014/15**

**Standing Items**

**1. 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).

**2. 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;

**3. Letting Procedure**

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.

***Annual Report***

The committee members and volunteer villagers have once again organised and helped at a variety of village events at the Hall and it has also been used in support of other events held at the Church. During the year the Hall committee has arranged a number of Village Bar Nights, the Christmas Quiz, 100 Club Draw and, for the fifth year running, a pensioners Christmas lunch where 28 Woodhurst pensioners and Sue, the new Rector, enjoyed a full home cooked Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Donations from villagers enabled the lunch to be laid on at no cost with a small profit being carried towards next year's event. Our thanks go to all who helped with the food preparation, cooking, waiting on, washing up and for the organisation of a game of Bingo to finish off the afternoon.

There are a number of events which are a combined effort between the active

groups in the Village (the Hall, Church and Natural Woodhurst); the Woodhurst Feast Week in particular is 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.

The theme for Feast Week 2014 was the history of Woodhurst and our thanks go to Shirley Firth for the time and research she put in to compile the very interesting booklet, the Feast Week service and also for setting up and hosting a fascinating history of Woodhurst exhibition in the church for two weekends. Neil Farbon arranged the annual anagram quiz on the same subject; under the well known people section it was clear that not everyone knew that the Queen had been to (or should that be through) Woodhurst! Natural Woodhurst organised the photo competition and calendar on the theme of "Four Seasons in Woodhurst", which once again sold very well. The excellent family treasure hunt (organized by Andy Notman and Sara Oak) was well supported and a lively bar evening followed. Due to inclement weather the annual Cream Teas were held at the Village Hall, the turnout was so good that we were bursting at the seams. There were the usual ingenious and humorous entries into the Scarecrow Festival and the 100 Club (organized by Tracy Bass) was very well supported.

Feast Week 2014 raised £1,035.11. The proceeds are normally 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 the Parish Council, Natural Woodhurst events and Village meetings. 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 various events and has been booked for dog training sessions.

Forthcoming events planned by the Committee this year include the usual Feast Week events, Village Bars the Christmas quiz and pensioners lunch.

### **Premises Report**

As now reported for many years, the Village Hall Committee continue to investigate the replacement of the Hall which is nearing the end of its useful life. Drawings have been produced for committee consultation but further development of those has not been forthcoming from the architect over the winter. Once these have been finalised for village consultation the committee will look to take forward planning and funding applications. An environmentally sensitive building, incorporating optimum energy saving measures and with a designated furniture store area has been designed.

PAT testing has been completed to all portable electrical equipment, fire extinguisher servicing takes place annually. 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.

An insurance policy is held with Allied Westminster (Insurance Services) Ltd. The public liability cover is in place under this policy for a sum of £5 million.

**Finances**

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

The non-domestic rates bill from HDC for the 2015 financial year has been charged at £165.16, a substantial discount for mandatory charity rate substantially reducing the £826 full charge.

*Annabel Farbon*

Secretary, Woodhurst Village Hall Committee  
2015

12 April