

Orwell Village Hall Management Committee



Information and bookings: www.orwellvillagehall.com

As I type this, we remain hopeful that we will be accepting bookings again from Monday, 17 May. By the time you read this, we will know whether that was the case.

Our Treasurer, Mark Collins has been in contact with village clubs and societies to discuss when and how they want to return. If you haven't yet heard from him or indeed if you are contemplating hiring the hall for a regular or one-off event, do get in touch. Details can be found by visiting the village hall website.

This leads me to what may become the main topic for discussion at our forthcoming AGM – how to better promote the hall and all it has to offer. The extensive repairs and upgrades completed during lockdown have led to quite a transformation, yet the hall needs to be buzzing with activity again for the process to be truly complete.

Whilst our regular users are the backbone of village hall (and indeed village) life, there are surely other clubs and societies in Orwell and its surrounding villages that would find a comfortable home at the hall. Similarly, we would invite local residents looking to celebrate a wedding anniversary, awards evening etc. to consider the hall as a natural first choice to host their event.

We remain grateful to SCDC for its channelling of grants our way, which have mitigated against our loss of income over the past fifteen months. We thank also the Parish Council for its funding of two of the major upgrades. Thanks to this the hall's finances remain sound, although we look forward to the resumption of our primary income stream from lettings, as soon as possible.

On a separate note, I have been enjoying reading through past editions of the Bulletin, especially when management of the village hall is mentioned. The following extract from the September 1984 edition might amuse a few.

An uplifting piece underlines just how important the hall was to the local war effort. In respect of the other article, although we are at least blessed to enjoy hot running water in the hall(!) it seems one or two of the challenges we can face today may not be so new. "Plus ca change" as they say....

That said, your officers remain grateful to the current band of Trustees and the wider Committee for their interest and engagement in the management of the hall and we look forward to as many as possible joining us for the AGM on 25 May, which will be the subject of a report in the September edition of the Bulletin.

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