

Orwell Village Hall Management Committee

At its meeting on 8 October the Management Committee dealt with a wide range of issues, from grill pans to gutters, stage lights to sink traps. Life on the Committee certainly isn't dull!

We remain grateful to Barry Sharman for agreeing to take an oversight role in the area of building maintenance. Some maintenance needs are clearly more pressing than others and we are in the process of obtaining quotes against a prioritised list of repairs. Hopefully by the time of the next Committee we will have made significant inroads into that list.

Users of the hall are also well placed to notice if anything appears awry. We have created a new email address, maintenance@orwellvillagehall.com and would ask you to email us with any concerns. (There is a book in the kitchen for the same purpose although an email is likely to elicit a swifter response).

Also discussed on 8 October was the possibility of us offering Wi-Fi in the hall. Our request in the September Bulletin for villagers' views did not generate any replies and it has been suggested that the erection of the mobile phone mast on the church tower means that the needs of users such as traders at the Pannier Market are now being met. With that in mind, whilst we will continue to explore options, this will go on the back burner as we continue to address other, more pressing issues.

On a concerning note, the Committee has been advised of occasions recently where items of equipment appear to have been disrupted, moved or even to have disappeared. This can be immensely frustrating for subsequent users of the hall. We are aiming to improve user information provided in respect of key items of equipment; however we would simply ask all hirers to leave the hall in the condition in which they would like to find it. If you believe that any item has been damaged or is missing please notify us as per the instructions above.

Everyone in Orwell has a stake in the village hall whether they are a regular user or not and your interest and involvement is appreciated. With this in mind the Management Committee has agreed that with immediate effect the minutes of its meetings will be made available on the new village hall website at www.orwellvillagehall.com. Whilst important pieces of news will always be published in the Bulletin, please take a look at the minutes for more detailed updates on the life of the village hall.

Staying with the website, you may recall from the September Bulletin that this should be a first port of call for anyone thinking of hiring the hall. It offers much useful information such as a list of facilities, charges and booking forms and, importantly, a calendar showing those dates that have been booked and those that remain available. Just as important we now ask hirers to make payment by bank transfer rather than cash or cheque if possible and instructions on how to do so are given on the website.

The new officers on the Management Committee continue to be grateful to outgoing officers and the wider Committee for all their advice and assistance as we learn the ropes. As has already been advised, our Chairman, Dave Titchmarsh will be standing down in Spring 2020 and any Committee member willing to take on this role is asked to contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

Finally, members of the Committee are reminded that the next meeting will take place in the back room of the village hall at **7.30pm on Tuesday, 14 January 2020**. We look forward to seeing you then.

Andrew Pulham, Secretary

andrew@orwellvillagehall.com