

Hatley Village Hall – report 2022-23

Hall hire for the financial year ending 31.03.23 totalled 30 bookings, which is significantly lower than in previous years (for example, there were 55 bookings in 2020-21). But it must be remembered that the hall was closed for a short time during this financial year while the toilet refurbishments were completed.

Hall income for this period was just over £1,900.00, which also includes a number of cash donations made by local ramblers who request to park at the Village Hall from time to time.

At the time of writing there is only one regular hirer of the hall, being a Native American Powwow Drum singing team, who use the hall 3 or 4 times a year to meet and practise. The hall has been hired for a wide range of purposes in the last year, to include Home School Group nature sessions, meetings hosted by the Wildlife Trust, West Cambridgeshire Hundreds and the Road Locomotive Society, as well as serving as a polling station, a toddler's rugby play session, and a place for family gatherings, a christening party and number of children's parties. Additionally, the HVA is now using the hall on a regular basis for monthly coffee mornings, the Hatley Arms pop-up pub and many other fantastic community events.

The hall has operated since September 2019 without a designated caretaker and as such the various caretaker and key holder duties continue to be shared among a very small group of volunteers, who are organised by the Parish Clerk. These volunteers assist with meeting and greeting hall hirers and inspecting the hall following an event, to check for damage and cleanliness. The same small group also help to keep the hall clean and tidy, reporting any maintenance issues to the Parish Clerk. More volunteers are required to help ensure this workload does not become too great a burden on the few, as those few are usually the same people who are volunteering in other capacities across the parish. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you think you can offer some time to help the Village Hall team of volunteers.

Hire charges increased in January 2023 to £9.00 per hour for Hatley residents and £12.00 per hour for others. We still believe this offers great value for money and the toilet refurbishments make the hall even more accessible to all ages, including babies that need nappies changing, as well as those who may be less mobile in or in need of wheelchair friendly facilities. Next on the list of hall improvements is the installation of a new notice board inside the hall for community use, followed in the next few months by the availability of free wi-fi for hall users.

Please do encourage people to consider hiring Hatley Village Hall for their events as hall usage is very quiet at this time and we do need to increase hall hire income so that we can continue to improve and modernise this wonderful community facility, as well as offset the increasing rate of running costs.

K Wilde

Parish Clerk and RFO / Hall Bookings Clerk

16.05.23