

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL charity no.246643

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PETTIWARD HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Committee

2024/2025 has been a year of transition for the Village Hall. Sara Raynes, Mary Preece and David Preece all retired as trustees and six new trustees have joined Delia Prior. At the AGM in March, those representing the village and new committee expressed their gratitude to David and Mary for the years of service they have given to the hall and the community. The new trustees and committee members are Lizzie Wilson (Chairman), Nick Walker (Treasurer), Cathy Morgan (Bookings Secretary), Vicky Godfrey (Secretary), Delia Prior, Aby Mann and Lorna Redgewell. Amanda (otherwise known as) Gert Gladden has also kindly agreed to help the committee.

Hall Improvements and Maintenance

The chimney re-build was completed in May, the cost being covered by donations from Cllrs Penny Otton and John Matthissen's locality budgets and from Finborough School. Two new fire call points were installed upstairs and the two electricity smart meters were replaced at the request of Eon. Repairs were carried out to the handrail at the side entrance and a broken downpipe was replaced on the east wall.

Land Registration

The registration of the small section of land which forms part of the Pre-school playground and was not included in the original registration, was completed in October. However, the Land Registry have said that absolute title to this piece of land cannot be granted until it has been occupied for a further twelve years.

Bookings

A survey carried out by Active Suffolk resulted in a new pilates class which started last July, with the first eight sessions free to attend. Yoga classes resumed this February following the instructor's maternity leave. We have also received a new booking for a sound bath and we are hopeful that if this is well attended it will turn into a monthly booking. After fair deliberation and taking into account the previous committee's concerns, the new committee has decided to allow bouncy castles back into the hall but under strict terms in relation to the height of the castle and on the

condition that the heating is not allowed to be on when the castle is in use. This has already resulted in one children's birthday party booking and we are hopeful that there will be more, particularly after we advertise this further.

The hall was pleased to accommodate Film Suffolk in October. They spent three and a half days shooting sequences for a short film entitled A Mid Suffolk Night's Dream which will form part of a longer film called Once Upon a Time in Suffolk. Several residents enjoyed acting as extras one afternoon. In addition to the regular hire by the Pre-school, Parish Council and Garden Club, there were bookings from Suffolk Spirit Hunters, Bravo Theatre Arts, Norfolk & Suffolk Long Distance Walking Association, Boyton Services, Affinity Trust, St Andrew's Church, the Allotments Association, Finborough School and Mid Suffolk District Council for the general election. Unfortunately the Parent & Toddler Group ceased to meet at the end of 2024 due to insufficient numbers.

As a consequence of rising energy and employment costs, hire charges were increased by a modest 50p per hour in January and, after consultation with the Pre-school, it has been agreed that their charges will increase by £2 per day, the first increase in 11 years.

"Little Ernie" Lottery

The lottery raised £180 for hall funds this year. The new committee have decided not to run the lottery at this time but have not ruled out a return in the future if there is a demand.

Policies

A new Social Media and Communications Policy was adopted in April and a Financial Procedures Policy in November. All other policies were reviewed without amendments. Our Reserves Fund remains at £5,000.

The new committee are looking forward to the challenge of building on the foundations laid in place by the last trustees and welcome all ideas from the community, no matter how big or small!

L Wilson (Chairman)

V Godfrey (Secretary) 2025