

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL charity no. 246643

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM, OF THE PETTIWARD HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee

Mary and David Preece stepped down after many years of incredible service to the hall. They were thanked by the community and new committee for all of their hard work and dedication over the years. Lizzie Wilson, Cathy Morgan, Aby Mann, Lorna Redgewell and Nick Walker all became trustees and therefore joined the committee. Gert Gladden also joins the committee meetings for advice and help. Delia Prior and Vicky Godfrey remained as trustees.

Hall Improvements and Maintenance

We have installed a key safe at the hall to ensure that one off hirers of the hall can access a key securely. This gives both security and flexibility for when the bookings secretary may not be able to handover the key in person.

We had an issue with two of the overhead heaters in the main hall. Separate issues were identified with each and fixed. We are grateful for the patience of our regular hirers whilst this was being resolved.

Hall improvement is one area that the committee are keen to focus on in the next year. In particular, we are investigating the viability of two main projects. The first is the installation of solar panels. This is with a view to improve our environmental sustainability and also to help with ever rising energy costs. The second is the installation of an accessible toilet. It sadly came to our attention that someone was unable to go to the loo whilst using the hall due to accessibility issues. It is our sincere hope that we can come up with a solution that means this never has to happen again. The grants team from Mid Suffolk District Council would like to see is support from the community for these projects and we will be highlighting this in the upcoming newsletters and contacting the Friends of Pettiward Hall for their help with this.

We would also like to look at other projects such as giving the hall a new coat of paint, revarnishing the floor, amongst other smaller projects.

Bookings

Over the last year regular bookings have continued to be received for:

- * yoga (weekly)
- * pilates (weekly)
- * Garden Club (monthly)
- * Parish Council (monthly)

These are welcome regular sources of income.

The pre-school continue to hire their part of the building from Monday to Friday. This provides an incredibly valuable source of income for the hall, for which we are grateful.

During the course of the year there have also been other regular events, including a monthly sound bath on Mondays in spring/ summer 2025 and a monthly gong bath on a Sunday over the winter. Further attempts are being made to encourage regular bookings.

We have also had a steady stream of private bookings for meetings, training courses, meditation sessions, childrens' birthday parties, baby showers and similar events in both the hall and the meeting room. We would like to increase these.

A number of village events have been held in the hall including: the VE Day 80th anniversary celebration; the pre-school Christmas Fair; the Veteran's Lunch; a GIFT information afternoon; the Garden Club's wreath making afternoon; and, an Autumn Supper in support of the church. We are keen to continue to build this engagement of the community and increase the use of the hall while also covering our costs.

As a Committee, we have run a series of village fundraising events including quiz nights and a beer and fizz evening. All have been well attended and engaged a wider group of people from across the village. It has been a pleasure to see the hall full and we are interested in others in the village organising similar events going forwards.

Hire Charges

As a consequence of rising energy and employment costs, hire charges for both rooms and equipment were increased by modest amounts. The main hall now costs £10 per hour to hire in the summer and £13 in the winter. The meeting room is now £6.25 in the summer and £7.25 in the winter. We have continued the policy that village fund raising events receive a 20% discount and that regular hirers receive a 10% discount in the winter months.

We thank the community for their support and look forward to seeing the hall host a number of welcome classes and events over the next year.

Lizzie Wilson
Chairman
March 2026