

## Annual report from Blue Bell Hill Village Hall 2023/2024

We have had another year of improving the facilities at the village hall for the benefit of our hirers and to make the hall more efficient and easier for the committee to manage.

We continued with a three phase project to use technology to improve the hall. We installed a WiFi system to start with. This enabled us to use a remote heating control system enabling the committee to adjust the heating as required via a Hive app and not have to go to the hall. It also meant that we could adjust the heating for each hirer's needs and not have it on all the time thus being more energy efficient.

The next stage was to continue to upgrade our security system with CCTV cameras all linked to the WiFi and again, can be seen on a mobile phone app which key committee members have. As part of this stage, we also created a CCTV policy and circulated this to all hirers and the neighbours that would be affected.

The final stage was to renovate and upgrade the PA system. We were lucky enough to secure a grant from Andrew Kennedy to put towards the cost of this.

Following a car damaging a wall at the front of the building, the purpose of which was to deflect rain water from flowing under the hall, we hired a builder to sort out the gullies and drainage for a more permanent solution. He also put a barrier up to prevent cars hitting the front wall of the hall and installed a better, safer disabled access ramp.

We have been lucky enough to have built a small team of reliable trades people to deal with any issues that the committee can't deal with ourselves.

The committee have had a few working parties - one to sort out the Grey Turner meeting room to make this a better place for hirers to use. Another was to go through all the tables, identify any broken or unsteady ones and give them all a good clean.

We have a good stream of enquiries for the hall and our bookings secretary accommodates what she can although we have lots of regular hirers which doesn't leave a lot of vacant slots.

Finally, at the end of the financial year, we increased our hire charges to start April 2024. All our hirers have accepted this.