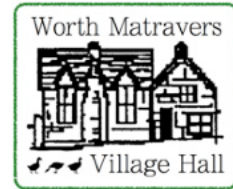


Worth Matravers Village Hall 2023 Annual Report

For AGM April 2024

www.worthmatraversvillagehall.org



2023 has been a year of continuing Refurbishment, of Increasing use of the Hall by Villagers, a year of New and Departing Trustees and, as ever, some excellent events.

Departing & Absent Trustees

Nick Viney – he has unfortunately been in hospital but will hopefully be out anytime now. He was due to retire as Village Hall Chair at this AGM and we thought it fitting to consider some of his contributions. His leadership and involvement in many events including his most significant achievement in that respect, the Village Centenary, opening up the Hall for easier, less formal and free access for village use, his friendly, inclusive approach, welcoming newcomers to the village and his commitment to sharing with everybody ‘what’s happening’ in the village by enrolling them onto our fabulous email list. I am sure we all send enormous thanks to Nick for what he has contributed to the Village Hall and to the Village over his 10 years in the Chair together with our best wishes to him and his family for their recovery. We look forward to seeing him again soon at our Village Events and around the Village.

Claire Barnes – as many of you will know Claire has moved rather suddenly from the Village and is now as we speak probably well into a new role as a Magistrate in the Bournemouth Area. She has contributed significantly to the Village Hall and the Village more widely in working with Tim Arnold to raise the quality of our Communications, specifically the Website, Monthly Newsletters and Publicising Village Events and last year oversaw the organisation of the Village Fete, and she was responsible for replacing our Notice Board before the old one totally collapsed. She will be greatly missed but we hope to see her from time to time and in the meantime send her our very best wishes. Claire was successful in replacing herself in the Communications role. Ali Arnold has taken it on, and May will be her first Newsletter. Welcome to that role Ali. We will hear from you later.

New Trustees

We are delighted to have been joined in this last year by:

Pete Newton – who before he joined as a Trustee was very involved in the Fete, though not so visible as some because he has done an amazing job of managing the Car Parks for the last 2 years, and is already into that for this year. And, he has also proved to be very capable at fixing things like the Boiler and Dishwasher, or at least getting them fixed.

David Ainscough – who began his village involvement with helping set up for the Queens Jubilee and has also been heavily involved in organising the Fete - set up, pack down & signs as well as getting involved in other vital matters such as fitting a new padlock to the shed and organising the drinks for events like this.

Angela Wenham – also involved in the Fete last year very successfully running the Cake Stall and being the life and soul of lots of many parties. Unfortunately, Angela has had to step down due to the organising of hers and Mike's house rebuild. She will still be there running the Cake Stall at this year's Fete and in other events I am sure. Her departure does leave what are now four vacancies for Trustees.

Repairs & Refurbishments

The project of refurbishing both the School House and the Village Hall is continuing under the excellent leadership of Rick Gould. Much of which has been completed in the last year or two has been in sorting out things like infrastructure and damp issues in this old Victorian Building but I will let Rick bring you up to date with what's been happening and what more exciting things are planned for this year. His report is available on www.worthmatraversvillagehall.org on Useful Links Tab

2023 Events

- Early May - Coronation of King Charles – Another fabulous get together with the large Scout Marquee out again but only needed for shade on a glorious day with our very own Queen Angela leading festivities from her head table on the Plinth. It was a very much enjoyed early summer Village Get Together – our version of a Street Party
- End May - Village Fete - Most successful ever for our Charities – MYTIME, St Nicholas Roof & Village Hall Refurbishments. The Après Fete and Presentations Evenings were also much enjoyed by many of those involved making the Fete such a success.
- Purbeck Artists and Stallholders (PASH) have continued over some 15 years to be our largest hire but also a major contributor to the village. They once again put on two significant events for Worth Matravers Village, bringing interest and activity for 5 weeks throughout the Summer and a week at the start of December. The latter offering us some unique alternatives for Christmas presents.
- August - BBQ Picnic – a new approach this year, which due to an inclement weather forecast, ended up being BBQ in the Village Hall and turned into BBQ in the Village Hall Garden as the weather was much nicer than expected. This was a bring your own ingredients and hand them over to master BBQ Chefs to cook them for you. A lot of fun was had by all who attended.
- November - Bring and Share supper in the Village Hall. Another village get together enjoyed by jolly, participative crowd.
- Carols on the Green which, due to yet another poor weather forecast, and particularly in the interests of the musicians also ended up in the Hall. It is possible that in future years the Carols, which is always so well attended could be Carols in the Hall, or maybe once St Nicholas has got his hat back on, Carols in the Church as was so successful the year before last.

- 2024 Events will see the return of the regular events - the Fete, for which preparations are already well underway. If you haven't got involved yet, it's not too late; a BBQ on the Green, Carols as already mentioned but also some other village get togethers are possibilities the first of which is a Sustainable Worth sponsored event 'Meet Oly Rush' on Thursday, the 25th April, and an Italian Evening on Sat, 11th May. And, by the way, all are welcome to set up Village Events and the Events Team will do what they can to support you.

Worth Film Club – this continues to be a very popular, well attended monthly event, from September through to June. A chance to watch some quite unique films chosen for us by Claude Bonfanti and Peter Handy. It has become part of the village fabric.

Other clubs and user organisations – Throughout the year we have also supported events and meetings for other local organisations and our Newsletters provide a way of keeping the village informed about what's happening. These include:

- Sustainable Worth – with an increasing interest being shown in our beautiful part of this amazing planet there have been meetings and activities in which we can participate. For their Newsletters ask to be added to their email list
- The National Trust – interest is high in the latest developments by the NT on Weston Farm. Various meetings to keep us up to date have been organised by the NT in conjunction with the Village Hall and with other Worth organisations such as MYTIME and Sustainable Worth. This latter including how we can get directly involved in things such as monitoring Wildlife, especially to assess how the farm area is returning to a more natural condition.
- Church Services during their massive roof repair project
- Lunch Club
- Sports Club (also known as the Youth Club)

Other Key Functions of the Village Hall Trustees

We will hear from each of them later, but they are also deserving of recognition:

Finance - so expertly handled for another year by John Hynan who will report later
Bookings - including Day to Day Management, Gardening & Care Taking by Rob Lobley supported by Pete Newton. Paid for bookings maybe flat, but use of the hall is very brisk due to use by villagers who benefit from our policy of making it available for Villager organised events – Report will be available on our website.
Communications & Web Site – now led by Ali Arnold – we are looking forward to the May Newsletter and Ali working closely with Tim, the creator and maintainer of our Website - www.worthmatraversvillagehall.org

Fund Raising – as we implement our planned improvements to this very special Village Facility the Trustees have shifted focus to fund raising events and other fund raising possibilities. Our carefully accumulated reserves, fortuitously supplemented by two Covid grants have been significantly reduced by expenditure on refurbishments over the last couple of years and this year's planned expenditure will leave our reserves c. £22,000 lower than at the end of 2023. The Financial Statement and Accounts can be seen on the Village Hall website – www.worthmatraversvillagehall.org