

Mapledurham Parish Hall report, 2022 – 2023

The Hall committee consists of Jane Bowen as Secretary, myself as Chairman, and Roger Penfold OBE as Treasurer. Other members include Brenda Brain, Ian Lowry, Marie or John East, and Juliana Beecroft. The Committee has met three times this past year on the 11th of July 2022, 17th October 2022, and 6th of March 2023.

This past year, lettings have been sparse but steady, with total lettings amounting to £5,956. The primary booking for the year is N V Clark (Dogs be Dogs) which has brought in £4,928 this past year. The Earley Cantors Choir have used the Hall occasionally for rehearsals. The Maples (Dyson Woods) Disabilities Trust, Berzerk drama group, and the Bridge club have not used the Hall for the past year and are unlikely to use it in future. The Dogs be Dogs however have been increasing their bookings are without question the predominant group using the Hall and especially the grass car park, which they use Tuesday morning, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings. So, with all of these changes, there is plenty of storage available.

The Hall has been made available free of charge to the Jubilee Club who use it usually once a month, and to St Margaret's Church who recently had their Maundy dinner here.

We have still been seeking, without success, quotes for upgrading the older two WCs. It was decided to utilise the services of Juliana Beecroft's husband Tony to carry out minor improvements over the coming year. He has already painted the external main doors. A low-wattage heater in the Ladies developed a fault and this was repaired. The lights have all been replaced with low-energy fittings this past year. The new disabled WC has been functioning well.

Other improvements this year include the installation of Wifi, available to all Hall users.

The grounds have been maintained by Robert Butler, and we have instructed him to repair the post and rail fencing both behind the Hall and in the overflow car park. The hedge has already been cut in advance of the birds nesting. We intend to place a bench overlooking the overflow car park to the north of the gate.

This past year the Hall has been the target of illegal dumping of old car tyres – many hundreds of them, so many in fact that we were unable to obtain a quote to have these removed. Fortunately, the Estate offered to remove them for free, and they have also removed many trailer loads of branches from the hedges from the Sonning Common Green Gym. We have expressed our gratitude to the Estate for doing this charitable work.

The Treasurer has reported that the balances as at the end of the financial year (31st March) were £11,507.64, made up as follows: Current account - £176.49, Deposit account - £9,415.26, and NSB - £1915.49. Total receipts were £6,250 and total payments £23,437, the major part of this to Thames Building Solutions for the disabled WC.