

Minsterley Parish Hall (Charity No. 522551)

Annual Report for 2024

The year 2024 saw some significant changes at the Parish Hall.

An appeal for new Committee Members to help sustain the work of Minsterley Parish Hall was sent out to the community. The prospect of possible closure brought together a number of people willing to join as Trustees and Committee Members.

At our last Annual Meeting we said “Goodbye” to Andrew Morris who had served as Chair since 2016 and had worked hard to maintain the Hall with ever diminishing helpers. The newly replenished Committee came together with the aim of maintaining and developing the Hall as a facility for the whole community.

We have had our challenges along the way, most significantly and sadly, the death of Geoff Brown who was the Parish Hall Treasurer for decades, and one of our most longstanding and devoted committee members.

Geoff’s account keeping was second to none but, nevertheless, we were left with the difficult task of bringing together all his records and reorganising our business banking arrangements without the benefit of a treasurer. We were given a few months of much needed support by Katharine Haines, a volunteer recruited with help from Community Resource. She was able to help reconstruct the accounts and to offer valuable advice to help our committee member Rosemary who has bravely offered to take on the role of treasurer.

The accounts for 2024 conclude with a balance of £25,616, and show a total income of £22,252. This was boosted by a generous £10,000 legacy received from the estate of John Arthur Wilding. In addition to this we saw our lettings income rise to £11,030 (£3,132 more than the previous year).

Total expenditure for 2024 was £11,918. Even without the benefit of the legacy we would still have made a profit (£334).

We are most grateful to Gill our bookings secretary who has continued to draw in new regular bookings as well as other one-off bookings from groups and local residents. These have included dance groups, yoga and Pilates, indoor football for children, a local woodcarving group, and the list goes on. These are in addition to other regular groups and hall users, including several associated with the local U3A.

The committee is committed to working as a team with a view to re-establishing the Hall as not just a venue for groups and events, but also a centre for the local community which local people can call their own.

We began in 2024 by establishing a regular monthly Indoor Boot Sale, which is proving very popular and beneficial for local residents.

In 2025 we are planning to introduce “Flicks in the Sticks” for families with children. (The first will be later this month – “Paddington 2”.)

Part of the building now accommodates the food store for the Rea Valley Food Bank. We have hosted some Community Meals organised by the local church for food bank clients and families in need.

There have also been preliminary discussions with Community Resource about the possibility of hosting a local Health Hub.

We are delighted to continue to be the venue for cultural events. Most importantly, the Minsterley Eisteddfod which has taken place at the Hall since the 1960s. But also the Malayalee Community's Annual Gathering, the Shropshire Village Halls Quiz League and the ever popular Church Christmas Fayre.

Of course, there are always issues to be faced in maintaining a large community building. The committee has been working to address these issues. A new Fire Risk Assessment was carried out at the end of 2024, which has required work to be carried out on the building to maintain and ensure the safety of all who use the facilities. This work is already underway, and we anticipate expenditure of about £4,000 to bring us into line with the Risk Assessment's recommendations by the end of April 2025.

There is a significant need to upgrade and improve our toilet facilities, ideally with the addition of a dedicated accessible toilet. This will need careful planning and significant funding for us to proceed.

With the help of Simon, one of our committee members, we have been working to improve our online presence. A new Website is being constructed which will be launched soon. We hope it will enable easier access to information about the Hall as well as bolstering our social media presence through Facebook and Instagram.

My thanks go to my fellow Committee Members for their hard work and dedication.

At our Annual General Meeting this year we will be bidding farewell to our longest standing committee member, Roy McGregor, who has served on the committee for the past forty years. His contribution has been marked especially by his enthusiasm and willingness to be hands on with the practical jobs that need doing. He deserves the greatest appreciation and thanks for all he has done. We shall miss him.

Rev Stuart Carter
Chair of Minsterley Parish Hall Committee.

April 2025