

Registered Charity 304561 Awarded Hallmark 1

LOWER ROAD, HORSINGTON, TEMPLECOMBE. BA8 0EH

Chair. John Macdonald
Deputy Chair. Chris Bailward
Treasurer. Chris Bailward
Bookings Secretary. Emilie Gordon
Primary Keyholder. Gillian Miles

Trustees report for the year April 2022 to March 2023

The Charities governing document is the trust deed, the original copy of which is held by the chairman of the Committee.

A management committee is formed each year. Presently it numbers 10. Representatives of user groups will make up part of the committee.

There are no paid staff. Trustees received no remuneration. Out of pocket expenses on behalf of St Margaret's Hall are repaid.

The charities bankers are: Santander Bank, Yeovil Branch.

Our insurers are: Zurich Insurance.

The object of the trustees is to provide a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Horsington, County of Somerset. The Hall should be held upon trust for the purposes of physical and mental recreation and training and social moral and intellectual development for the benefit of the inhabitants.

The trustees report that the Hall objectives have continued to be met.

The very popular art classes continue to be run on Thursdays and Fridays. A Yoga class is run under the auspices of South Cheriton resident Emma Riley.

The WI ceased to function in Horsington after a final meeting in April last year. The Parish Council continues to meet monthly in the hall.

We are constantly on lookout for new trustees. The post of Treasurer was taken over during the last report year by the Deputy Chair. The Chair has been in post for eleven years. The Charities Commission good governance rules suggest that officers should not be in any one position for that length of time.

St Margaret's Hall continues to maintain a healthy financial position. We retain a sensible amount in reserve. Day to day classes do not keep our current account in surplus and we have to raise additional funds to remain in balance. A Village Hall dinner held in March was well attended and raised a sum in excess of £1000. With the relaxation of the Covid19 restrictions, the Hall has had an improved utilisation with an increase in the number of bookings and our operating deficit is a marked improvement on the previous years. We raised our charges in April 2022 after a period of four years holding them level as we deemed it sensible to increase the charges in view of the rise in inflation. The fuel surcharge has risen to reflect the rise in the cost of oil. Our charges still remain competitive with our immediate neighbours in the surrounding villages. Our previous bankers, HSBC, introduced charges for our account. The committee felt that these charges were unreasonable and elected to change our bank. The change to the Santander Bank has been completed satisfactorily and the reserves kept in a former COIF account have been transferred to a Santander account that provides a better rate of interest.

After a period of eight years the exterior of the Hall was repainted last summer with any rotten wood replaced. The Oil Tank cover was sand blasted and primed and will be repainted in the near future.

The Hall purchased 100 new upholstered metal chairs, which are a great improvement on the old plastic chairs, 75 of which were acquired by St John's for a generous donation. Some of the plastic chairs have been retained for the use of the Art Classes.

The website horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk continues to be edited by the Deputy Chair and provides a platform for information, feedback and occasional bookings, as well as Minutes of Parish Council meetings since 2013.

The annual fire risk assessment will be carried out in April and the fire extinguishers will be inspected by an outside company at their normal annual time in June.

Two emergency exit lights were replaced in March and the monthly safety check carried out in April included the yearly one hour unpowered check on the emergency light system, which was satisfactory.

We continue to maintain our Hallmark 1 category which covers all aspects of management, forward planning and development. Our inspection by the Hallmark assessors was carried out in July 2021 and the appraisers were very happy with our standards. The next assessment is due in 2024.

The Hall Management Committee is grateful to the Parish Council for its continued monitoring and maintenance of the Hall surrounds.

Signed

John Macdonald, Chair, Management Committee.