

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

Trustees report for the year April 2023 to March 2024

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. Normally representatives of user groups will make up part of the committee. At this time, there is one group representative.

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 2022, although the former members continue to meet in the hall very occasionally. The Parish Council continues to meet in the hall ten months in the year.

We are constantly on lookout for new trustees. At the last Annual General Meeting three of our number retired from the committee and we thank Vicky Franklin, Maria Hawkins and Jackie Pyne for their long and helpful service. Gillian Miles resigned at the last meeting and was also thanked for her time as a member of the committee and Primary Keyholder. We have managed to recruit four new trustees, Jonathan Packer, Honoria Thompson, Paul Johnson and Pippa Knight and welcome all to the Committee. The Chair has been in post for twelve years and has indicated that he will resign from the position at the next AGM. 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 Race Night will be held in June to boost funds. The Hall has maintained a roughly equal utilisation in the number of bookings and our operating deficit is approximately the same as in 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.

The website horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk continues to be edited by the Deputy Chair and provides a platform for information, feedback and occasional bookings.

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

Two emergency exit lights need to be replaced and will be so when our electrician Mark Pearson upgrades the lighting in the Changing rooms. The monthly safety check carried out in April included the yearly one hour unpowered check on the emergency light system, which was satisfactory. The safety check now includes a reading of the electricity meter. This was added after a long period where our electricity company, changed after our provider went into liquidation, was being persuaded that we were a customer and was using unrealistic estimated meter readings. This meant that when we finally resolved the situation we were presented with a hefty bill. Hereafter all readings will be actual, not estimated, for the purposes of billing.

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 late 2024.

The previous arrangement of the quid pro quo whereby the Parish Council used the Village Hall gratis in return for the maintenance of the surrounds no longer stands. Committee volunteers maintain the surrounds and the Parish Council now pays for its use of the hall.

Signed

John Macdonald, Chair, Management Committee.