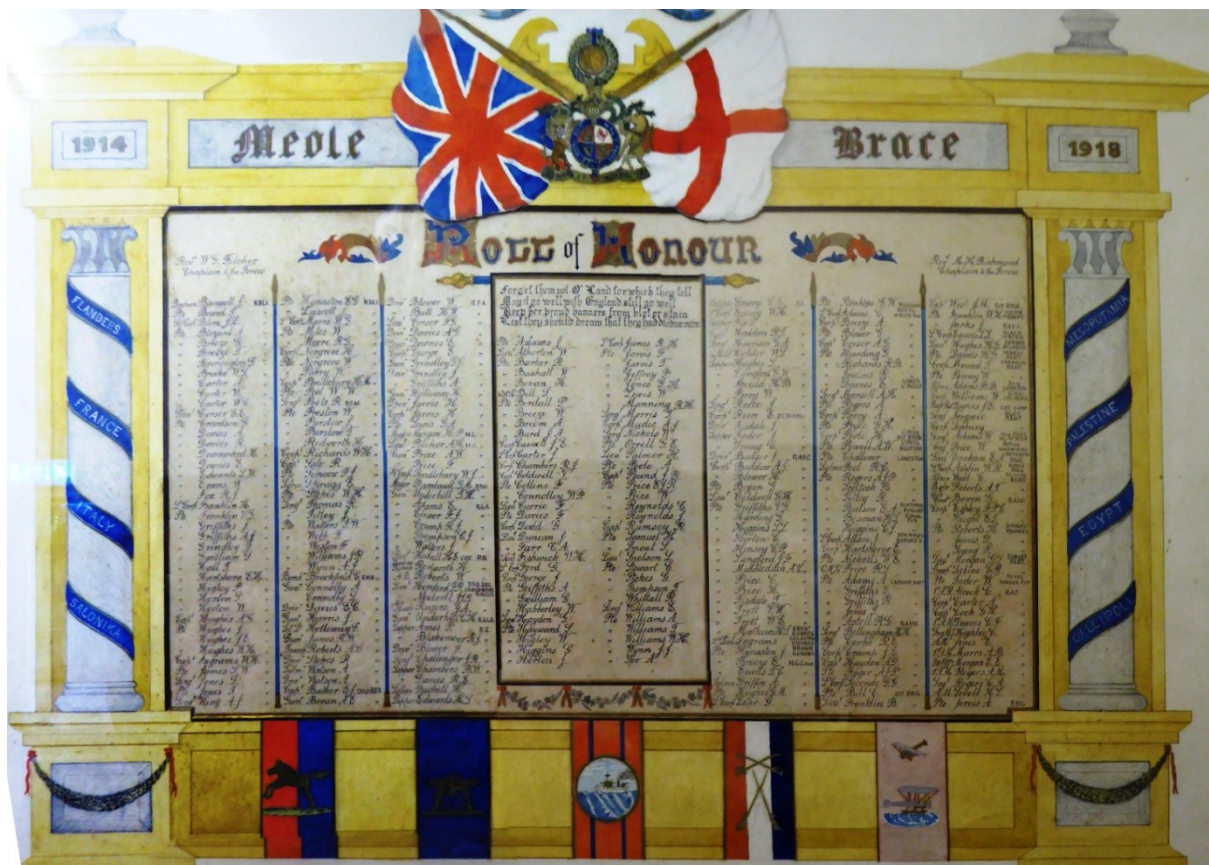


**Annual Report of Meole Brace Peace Memorial  
Hall Charity Reg no. 1170090  
January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**



**Address:** Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall, Upper Rd, Shrewsbury SY3 9JP

**Trustees:** Peter Dunhill (Chair), Jane Williams (Treasurer), Andrew Hulme (Website/Facebook), Helen Smart, Heather Macleod

**Management Meeting Attenders/Minutes Receivers:** Ruth Jones (Nobold WI Rep), Clive Goodwin (Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club Rep)

**Contact for bookings:** Peter Dunhill 07392 571053, email [meolepeacehall@gmail.com](mailto:meolepeacehall@gmail.com)

**Banking:** Nat West, Telford Town Centre, Telford

**Insurance cover:** Village Guard (Allied Westminster) – Property Damage, Employers Liability, Public Liability, Legal Expenses, Trustee Indemnity

**Local authority areas:** Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council

**Facebook page:** <https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/Meole-Brace-Peace-Memorial-Hall-538869346237711/about/>

**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/site/meolebracememorialhall/home>

## Our facilities

The main hall (12.5 x 6m + Stage: 4.8 x 6m) is equipped for a variety of uses including meetings, slide/powerpoint shows, dance, drama, parties, lunches and indoor recreation

- Stage with lighting and curtains.
- Side dressing/green room
- Plenty of stackable tables and chairs.
- Maximum Capacity: 100 people standing, 90 seated
- Wide door and wheel chair access
- Heating

An entrance lobby

A meeting room (4 x 5.7m) that is suitable for committee meetings or refreshments - a semi sound proof partition wall can be opened onto the side of the main hall,

A fitted kitchen with

- Hot water boiler and kettles for drinks
- Fridge
- Electric Cooker
- Microwave

Toilets (male, female, accessible for people with disabilities) and cloakroom area

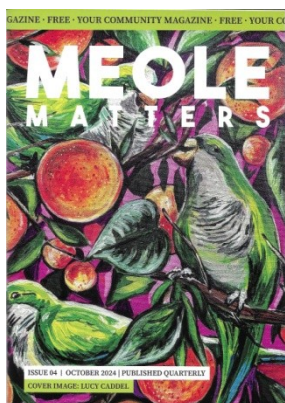
Plenty of storage space

Off road parking for 8 vehicles + on road parking – we are located in a built up area

## Chairman's Report

This year has been largely shaped by our forward planning around the future of the Hall. The initial proposal to refurbish the current building—costing over £460,000—was ultimately deemed unfeasible. In response, the Trustees began exploring alternative options, including a complete rebuild. A key advantage of a new build is that it would not incur VAT, offering a more financially viable path.

A local survey, conducted by our Town and Shropshire Councillor, gathered some insight—albeit with a low response rate and limited contextual explanation. It showed a narrow majority in favour of constructing a new Hall on land at the lower end of the football ground on Church Road. The alternative options considered were rebuilding on the current site or relocating to Mary Webb Road. Any future developments will now depend on whether the Town Council supports this potential relocation. Importantly, the sale of the current site could help offset the cost of a new facility.



The recently launched Meole Matters magazine, now delivered quarterly to every household in the parish, has played a crucial role in keeping our community informed about these developments and the options we're exploring.

Meanwhile, maintaining the existing Hall has continued to be a significant undertaking. Regular inspections, ongoing repairs, replacements, and redecoration have all required attention. You'll find further details on these activities later in this report.

Our standout event of the year was once again the *Frost Fayre* in late November. Huge thanks go to Jane Williams and her team for organising a wonderful event featuring over twenty stallholders, festive music, crafts, games, and an unbeatable community spirit. We were also delighted to raise £776 (after expenses) in support of the Hall and its ongoing work.



We were thrilled to welcome Father Christmas himself, who kindly opened the Frost Fayre

In addition, the Hall played a key role in the Meole Garden Trail in June, serving cream teas to an enthusiastic turnout on a gloriously sunny day—so popular, in fact, we were nearly overwhelmed! We also hosted two Local History Walks, which raised nearly £200 in donations.

In January we learnt with great sadness that Anne Davies, sister of former chairman Bob Mills, had died. Anne worked quietly but tirelessly behind the scenes for many years, keeping the Hall stocked and in good order. In recent times, as her health declined, her absence made it even more apparent how much she contributed. The term “stalwart” is



often used to describe devoted volunteers, and in Anne's case, it was truly fitting.

Lastly, we bid a frugal farewell to our Green Bin—formerly used for leaves, moss, strimmer cuttings, and small

## History

Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall was the product of many years' work by a committee formed to try to create a Peace Memorial in memory of the sacrifices made by local people during the First World War.

Early Committee minutes from 1920 record the failure to raise sufficient funds a very ambitious proposal – spare cash for donations was short at the time

The plan was then changed to building a hall on a piece of land opposite The Sycamores (now known as Millford Lodge) to be donated by the Bather family - Lords of the Manor for many years who had provided the vicars of Meole Brace almost continuously between 1778 and 1931. On the back of this donation it was not long before £180 had been raised.

The committee agreed to purchase a hall built of concrete from a Mr Edwards at a cost of £650. It would contain a room 60ft x 20ft wide, a 20ft x 20ft square club room adjoining, a kitchen equipped with a boiler, and ladies' and gentlemen's cloakrooms with lavatory accommodation.

sticks. Thanks to a bit of elbow grease and some creative thinking, a new compost bin was constructed near the back door—a simple, sustainable solution we can all be proud of.

## Peter Dunhill



Bell ringers in Meole Brace c 1920

The building was soon erected and an opening concert arranged for Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> 1921 followed by a whist drive and dance on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Invitations were sent out to all householders and ex-servicemen who had lived in the area.

There was a dispute with Mr Edwards about a significant disparity between the original estimate and the final cost. Eventually the matter was resolved amicably through negotiation.

The list of committee members over the years includes the surnames of many well known Meole Brace families: Aris, Ashton, Bather, Burd, Chambers, Cox, Edwards, Evans, Griffiths, Harris, Jones, Massie, Purslow and Tanner

This is an A-Z of just some of the groups and functions that the Hall has hosted over the years:

Alexandra Players - Art Classes - Arts Alive - Auction Sales - Boy Scouts -

Bridge Club - Child Welfare Clinic -  
Choirs - Coronation parties for children  
- Dancing Classes - Gardening Club -  
General and Local Elections - Girl  
Guides - Jazz Band - Martial Arts -  
Men's Institute - Play Groups -  
Rummage Sales - Salinka Stars - The  
Women's Institute - Whist Drives

In 2002 many of the Hall Trustees had  
lost heart and it seemed as though the  
Hall might close. Even though there  
were plenty of bookings this was not  
matched by any enthusiasm to  
contribute to the running of the Hall.  
However a public meeting resulted in  
the election of a new committee and a  
great number of improvements were  
made especially to the entrance and  
cloakroom areas which had a new  
concrete floor and also to the heating  
system.

## Hall usage

### Regular Users during 2024

*Meole Brace Garden & Allotment Club*

–Club talks and Committee meetings

*Nobold Womens Institute* –11 evening meetings a year

*Salinka Stars* (young and teenage dance troupe) –4.00-9.00 pm every Thursday

*Puddles Playgroup* –one morning (Friday) every week

*Art Group* –Monday mornings

*Keep Fit and Fitness classes*–

Thursday evenings, Friday afternoons, Saturday early morning

*Pilates* – Thursday mornings

*Dance classes* – Tuesdays and Thursdays

*Tai Chi* – Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons

*Ballroom dancing practice* – Thursday evenings

*Drumming Workshop* – Sunday afternoons

*Meole Village Community Group* – monthly meetings free of charge



Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club Annual Show



Festive singers at the Frost Fayre

### Occasional Users

The hall is used as a *polling station* for local and general elections

*Childrens Parties*

*Frost Fayre (Hall fundraiser)*

*Ceilidhs*

*Play and Band rehearsals and performances*

*Singing and Dance grades*

*Home Educators*

*Shropshire Archaeological Association  
Friends of Palestine  
Tea and Cakes for local events eg  
Garden Trail*

### **Booking rates in 2024**

Groups: £9 per hour, £27 for half day /evening session

Parties, events depending on time:  
£35 - £60



Refreshments for local events

### **Maintenance + Cleaning**

We undertook a significant and much needed programme of redecoration during the quieter summer months. This involved a lot of re-plastering, replacing wood panelling, re-tiling and, of course, up grading the paint work. We were lucky to attract a very competitive quote from a local painter and decorator who was happy to work with volunteers. The outcome has put the Hall in the 'acceptable' category in terms of its overall look.



Before the redecoration - a plaster fall

The plan is to turn our attention to the exterior of the building in 2025 when we hope to employ the same decorator that did the inside.

Over the course of the year repairs and maintenance work have been undertaken on the toilets and drains, the emergency exits, the main door, the water heater, the hall floor and the kitchen. Peter Williams (husband of our Treasurer Jane Williams) has made a particularly active contribution this year in sorting out electrical issues and cleaning out the gutter between the two pitched roofs.

Sarah Adams, our dedicated and flexible cleaner, has used her two hours a week very efficiently and has been thorough, cheery and conscientious. We replaced the useless old vacuum cleaner with an equally cheery 'Henry' secured at a useful discount by Trustee Helen Smart.

### **Inspections**

The Hall has complied with the legal requirement to have annual (electrical) Portable Appliance Tests and a commercial Gas Installation Examination. The Gas Examination revealed a slight



pipe width deficiency with our newly replaced water heater. This was rectified at minimum cost and was all sorted by September when the weather started to get colder. In addition the fire extinguisher inspection by Oakleys took place in July.

## Plans for Hall a potential new Hall

Any new Hall will need to improve the use of space, energy efficiency and comfort and in general create a modern and welcoming ambience while retaining the traditional feel of a village hall.

We commissioned an architectural technician to develop a design based

on standardised, and therefore economical, components to help give the local community an idea of what a future new build Hall might look like.



What a potential rebuild using standard components might look like

There is a possibility that we could work with the SAHA football Club to incorporate new changing rooms but will resist any initiatives to include a social club and bar which would incur significant local opposition.

## Summary of Annual Accounts

Receipts	2024	2023
	£	£
Hire of Hall	10551	10104
Donations	50	42
Interest	325	299
Fundraising	1328	1350
Electricity meter	95	12
Grants/other	507	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>12856</b>	<b>11808</b>
Current account b/f	5176	12223
Reserve account b/f	21937	25638
<b>Total brought forward</b>	<b>27114</b>	<b>37861</b>
Cash in hand b/f	457	2
Stock held	50	45
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>40477</b>	<b>49715</b>

Payments	2024	2023
	£	£
Electricity	884	1240
Gas	2376	2209
Water	621	377
Insurance	825	800
Licences/Subs	155	109
Maintenance/Repairs	4352	2740
Renovation costs	275	12185
Cleaning	1196	1216
Fundraising costs	172	689
Consumables	387	358
Printing/Banners	215	173
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>11457</b>	<b>22095</b>
Current account c/f	4041	5716
Reserve account c/f	2462	21937
<b>Total carried forward</b>	<b>28803</b>	<b>27114</b>
Cash in hand c/f	217	457
Stock held	0	50



<b><i>Overall total</i></b>	<b>40477</b>	<b>49715</b>
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**This summary is purely indicative. The full inspected accounts are available on request.**



**The Ceilidh Band in full swing**



Salinka Stars are long term regular users of the Hall. We wish them luck in all their activities and competitions



## The Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall

(Registered Charity Ref 1170090)

### Financial Statement for the Period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Hire of hall receipts	10,551	10,104	Electricity	884	1,240
Donations received	50	42	Gas	2,376	2,209
Interest received	325	299	Water	621	377
Fundraising proceeds	1,328	1,350	Insurance	825	800
Electricity Meter	95	12	Licences/Subscriptions	155	109
Grants/Other	507	-	Maintenance and Repairs	4,352	2,740
			Renovation Costs	275	12,185
			Cleaning	1,196	1,216
			Fundraising costs	172	689
			Goods & Consumables	387	358
			Admin Costs/Printing	215	173
			Expenditure from Grants		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>12,856</b>	<b>11,808</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>11,457</b>	<b>22,095</b>
<b>Bank Balances brought fwd</b>			<b>Bank Balances carried fwd</b>		
Current Account	5,176	12,223	Current Account closing	4,041	5,176
Reserve Accounts	21,937	25,638	Reserve Accounts closing	24,762	21,937
<b>Bank totals brought fwd</b>	<b>27,114</b>	<b>37,861</b>	<b>Bank totals carried fwd</b>	<b>28,803</b>	<b>27,114</b>
Cash in hand brought fwd	457	2	Cash in hand carried fwd	217	457
Stock held	50	45	Stock held	-	50
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>40,477</b>	<b>49,715</b>	<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>40,477</b>	<b>49,715</b>

#### Notes

Hall hire income increased by £499 this year, total £10,603. The hall was temporarily closed for around 3 weeks for extensive re-painting, otherwise income would have been higher

**Fundraising update** - Frost Fayre proceeds exceeded previous years raising £947 less £172 costs making an overall profit £776

Garden Trail refreshments also made £224 contribution

**Grants received:** Shrewsbury Town Council £500 one off

**Maintenance:** £2,800 spent on internal and some external re-plastering and painting of walls, ceilings and wood. £1,266 spent on new water boiler as broken and other heating/gas equipment repairs