

The Bourtons Community Hall entered the 2022/23 year just as Covid restrictions were finally ended and we were pleased to see an increase in bookings from regular hirers and for one-off events. There are now weekly yoga classes from three different teachers, plus other fitness and martial arts classes. There are regular activities for young children and private children's parties continue to be popular. Visiting caravan clubs are regular hirers, too, especially during the winter months. Although the Meeting Room is still relatively underused, we have one frequent business user and other bookings have increased.

We were pleased to be able to offer the Hall and garden for the Big Lunch Jubilee Celebration for the village in June 2022. With the recent closure of The Bell in Great Borton, a trial 'Drop Inn', 'bring your own bottle' pub evening was held in March. This evening proved to be a popular way of getting people together and we are exploring ways of hosting such events more regularly, with an appropriate approach to funding.

With the help of the Parish Council a number of longstanding maintenance issues have been dealt with and we were especially pleased with the resurfacing of the car park, which was arranged by the Parish Council and undertaken by a team of volunteers from the village. Replacement of a damaged blind over the patio doors was funded by the residual money from the acoustic panelling grant.

The Hallmaster Booking System was successfully implemented during the year. This enables our increased volume of bookings to be accurately recorded and invoiced. The bookings schedule is always live and can be viewed on the Bourtons website. As part of the Hallmaster exercise, our pricing structure was reviewed and simplified. Over the year, the hire income exceeded the running costs. In addition, we successfully applied for a grant to help with rising energy costs and received other grants and donations. The Hall is now in a good position to consider further investment, and we have recently received quotations for audio visual equipment for the main hall and meeting room, for instance.

However, our challenge for the future will be managing energy costs as we come to the end of the three year fixed price electricity contract in early 2024. The possibility of installing solar panels is being investigated, and separately, the installation of Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure in the car park. We are also looking at more efficient ways to control the heating system. Redecoration will also be started in the coming year.

We look forward to another year providing an excellent facility for the community.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

As we started the year, Covid restrictions were still in place and the Community Hall remained closed.

The Trustees continued to hold Committee meetings online, ensuring that we were aware of the changing regulations and applying for appropriate grants and funding entitlements. Meanwhile, we maintained cleaning, safety and security regimes at the Hall to ensure we were ready to reopen.

In June 2021 we were able to offer the Hall as a safe space for a small group of residents and their sewing machines to complete a village bunting project.

As restrictions eased we were able to make the Hall available for hire for regular weekly fitness, Taekwondo and yoga classes, as well as for children's activities.

We were pleased to be able to provide the Hall and garden for a village fete and celebration in July 2021 to enable residents to meet after months of restrictions.

The Hall is now a popular venue for children's parties and there are frequent bookings from Caravan Clubs visiting the village. The large Hall is regularly used as a rehearsal space for a local amateur dramatic group. Private parties and wedding events are also held there.

Throughout the year we were able to maintain a very high standard of cleaning, partly funded through the grants received as a consequence of enforced closure due to Covid.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.