

## **Chairman's report for AGM 2023**

The Hall continues to be well used by the community. Around 30 groups use the Hall regularly, although, latterly, a number of groups have come and gone as their numbers dropped to unsustainable levels due to the cost of living crisis.

Lettings Policy and Application for Hire forms have been updated over the year. It's mainly parties and one off events that have been affected but all Hall users have been made aware of the changes

The Jubilee party, held in June, was enjoyed by the children and parents alike. Debra made herself available to complete the cleaning after the event, charges for which were met by the PC.

A sign directing people to the Hall has been attached to the fascia outside the YMCA Charity Shop in July,

Black Sheep Utilities arranged a new 5 year Gas contract with 'Smartest Energy' from June 2023 and the redundant gas meters were removed by Opus at a cost of £338.13.

The Hall insurance was renewed with Ansvar in September. As it is a condition of our insurance that rebuild costs be assessed, an assessor visited in November.

The Pine Room was cleared, barring a coat rack and a limited number of tables and chairs, which will remain. Spare tables and chairs were donated to Rainhill Recreation Club. Curtains and poles were fitted to the windows

Tables and chairs were rented out to RRC for their Gala on 28 August at a charge of £40 for the day

It proved difficult to keep day to day activities within the boundaries of office opening times, so office hours were extended from 9.00 to 2.30 from Monday to Friday

To cover the extra office hours, Michele relinquished her cleaning duties and a second cleaner has been employed to work on three mornings per week,

Before leaving the Hall due to lack of support, the Belly Dancing Group held a fundraising session in November, when they raised £327.30 for the Hall. The Bowls group kindly donated £100 in November, 2022

The Religious Festival, held on 19 November, was well attended. It was very well organised and their requirements specific. Indications are that the group will be interested in booking the Hall in the future

Annual financial support through the Village precept has been set at £11695.00 for the next financial year.. The annual award is crucial to the Hall's financial position and we are very grateful.

The Model Railway Exhibition in March was well attended. Organisers are looking forward to the Xmas exhibition which is planned for Saturday 25 November

Railway & Heritage Society asked the Management Committee to consider using a room or outside space to house museum exhibits. There is no capacity inside the building, but the Committee are happy for R&H to pursue the location of a converted container to the right of the Hall.

Vandals smashed a window in Elm room on Sun 29.01. Reported to police, but no action could be taken as there were no witnesses to the incident and no CCTV coverage to that side of the building. An additional CCTV camera has been fitted to cover left side of the building

As has been emphasised of late, there will continue to be challenges around satisfying the needs of groups, in particular if activities require quieter areas or if there are problems around access. Often there are issues regarding unlocking and locking and ensuring that the building is left safe and secure. The Hall is often wholly reliant on the vigilance of regular hirers, who have to take responsibility for the safety of their group members and the security of the building.

It is a condition of our insurance cover that the alarm is set when the building is empty. There are instructions, next to the alarm panel, informing users of the correct procedure if they are unable to set the alarm.

There are precious few volunteers involved in the day to day running of the Hall. 'new blood' is hard to come by as those willing to donate time tend to be involved with their groups. Clearly commitment to the Hall is required as there isn't the capacity to spend too much time organising and supervising. We are very grateful to members of user groups and other volunteers who have given up their time to improve the appearance of the Hall interior. We are particularly grateful to Joe who has spent many hours decorating the Foyer, the corridor at the side of the stage, the Willow, Elm and Maple rooms.

## **Maintenance**

The Hall has been regularly maintained throughout the year.

The Maple Room step from the emergency exit door was repaired and the step extension and grab rail are in place. The sagging ceiling by exit door was made good

Flashing replaced on the wall protruding above foyer to stem ingress of moisture affecting the inside of the foyer by front doors. Drain pipe and cabling fixed to rear side of wall

Fixed Wiring Inspection was carried out in April

Extension to concrete ramp outside Oak Room emergency doors put in place

Fire Exit sign to back stairs in Teak kitchen was erected

The convector heaters in the Oak hall are due to be replaced soon.

A LOLER Inspection (lift MOT) carried out in July and certificate issued

Signs for directions to gents' toilet and disabled toilet/baby changing room are now displayed on main corridor

Gutters and downpipes cleared. A section of guttering to the rear of the building was reset where roof overhang is limited. The Elm room remains dry by the window since the gutter was cleared and flashings above the boiler room resealed. Flashings sealed at front outside foyer. One leak from flashings still to be sealed. In the kitchen, after the temporary repair 18 months ago, the leak reappeared in Dec. A roofer identified an area, carried out a repair when the roof dried out.

Motion light sensors have been fitted in three corridors and light switches removed.

Waterplus located the water meter and identified a leak but as yet it has not been repaired.

Gas check carried out in December

An anti-surge device has been fitted. This was required before the boiler control panel and valves could be replaced, although the boiler has only been problematic on a few occasions over the winter months.

New curtains and poles were fitted in the newly decorated Willow and Elm rooms.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee, and in particular Chris as Secretary, Gill as Treasurer, Betty as Minute Secretary and Michele for their support over the year.

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## **Rainhill Village Hall Receipts and Payments Account** ***Annual Accounts for period: April 2022 – March 2023***

**Accounts checked by independent third party:** Tina Ball  
Culture Development & Events Officer (Gallery & Museum), Knowsley Council

**Date of check and approval:**  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Signature:**

