

Sutton Village Hall Chairperson's Report 2024

A warm welcome to you all to the 2024 Sutton Village Hall AGM.

So what have we been up to over the last year?

Well, the first event last November was our whisky tasting evening, organised and hosted by John. This was a very sophisticated and edifying event, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, as far as they can remember.

Then in December we had our village advent calendar, with windows beautifully and festively decorated. Also our special Christmas coffee morning, with mulled wine and carols in the background.

In April we organised a Gilbert and Sullivan evening, performed by The Wandering Minstrels. This went down well with those who like Gilbert and Sullivan.

Also at the April coffee morning, we had Tracey Wye cut the ribbon on our new dishwasher (which has proved to be somewhat of a challenge).

In May, we had our annual duck race. Once again we had beautiful weather and a great turn out, with all duck tickets sold. This year we introduced a fourth monetary prize and also a last prize of the actual duck which, bizzarely, was very well received. A big thanks to John for organising the day, and to everyone who helped out both before and on the day – selling tickets, damming stream, clearing banks, counting ducks, herding ducks, retrieving ducks. It was a great team effort, making it such a success.

June saw us ringing the church bells to celebrate D-Day, a moving and emotional event. Since then, Sharn and Jay have been ringing the church bells on Sunday mornings.

Also at the June coffee morning, we had our official opening of the King Charles Annex, with some fizz to mark the occasion. Thanks to John, who purchased the container. It is now doing a good job easing the storage problem for village groups.

Than on 15th June, we had the Birmingham Conservatoire Folk Ensemble, always a popular and lively event. Thanks specially to Sharn for organising all the food for over 40 performers.

At the August coffee morning, Adam Zerny presented the cups to the winners of the art, poetry and photography competitions. This year's theme had been "weather". Entries were unfortunately sparse, but of a high standard, and thanks to all those who did enter.

In October, we had our jazz evening , with Pete Horsfall and trio, a great evening's music and a busy bar, manned by Sharn and Malc.

At our October coffee morning, a member of the police joined us to give advice on protection from scams. Thanks to Stefan for organising this.

Throughout the year, we have continued to have our village walks every other month. These are still mainly only attended by committee members, but very enjoyable. A big thank you to all walk leaders.

All of our money making events have made a profit this year, so a big thank you to the committee for making a special effort to improve our advertising. This certainly paid off, and while word of mouth and face book appeared to be the main ways that people found out about our events, the posters and ads in local newsletters and magazines also played their part.

In addition to organising events for villagers, the committee has, as always, been busy with everyday maintenance and safety aspects of the hall.

EG we have dealt with water leaks, had a new water heater and dishwasher installed, painted the hall, both inside and outside, cleaned the windows inside and out, reattached the loose sink and towel dispenser in the loos, repositioned the parking sign, repointed the pizza oven, replaced wheel on chair trolley, installed a new strip light, replenished the first aid box, repositioned and stabilised the water butt, purchased four new tables, coffee maker, kettle and brush, had the piano tuned, trimmed the hedge, planted flowers, weeded, removed ivy, cut down nettles – and more.

Jay, John, Pat and Gerry in particular have given a lot of time to maintenance. Jay and Sharn keep busy throughout the year buying everyday essentials , toilet roll, paper towels, coffee etc.

I would just like to thank the committee for all your dedication and work throughout the year to make the village hall a success. You are all such a great group of people, supportive of each other and always good fun. I'd also like to thank Lorna, our webmaster, who has designed and keeps our website up to date and also designed and printed posters to help with advertising.

Sadly, Ellie has decided to stand down from the committee this year. She has done a sterling job as our liaison person for the WI and the church. We'll all miss her and we thank her for all her contributions over the years.

With John in charge of letting out the hall, Stefan in charge of finance and Sharn our super efficient secretary, everything runs smoothly, and I am ready at any time to relinquish chairmanship to a new and more youthful model.