

Annual Parish Meeting 1st May 2024

Manley Village Hall

prepared by Colin Ford

Over the past year, the Hall has undergone a number of upgrades and amendments that has improved both its appearance and marketability.

The main upgrades have been:

1. Installation of a new Internet service managed by Gigaloch;
2. The main hall, kitchen and snug have been repainted;
3. Various indoor and outdoor lights have been replaced with energy efficient LED's;
4. The Kitchen area has undergone a thorough 'deep clean' and all cutlery items have been deep cleaned;
5. The beer pumps and fridges in the bar area have been placed on timers so they are not constantly on; and
6. The radiators have all been fitted with 'Hive' radiator valves, making the heating easier to control.

There have been a number of incidents due to inappropriate use of the hall and snooker room, which resulted in the 75" TV being smashed and the snooker tables being used as a childrens' play area. As a consequence, the decision was taken to keep the snooker room separate from the hall and locks were installed on the access doors to keep it completely separate. As one door was an emergency exit, advice was sought and new Emergency Exit signage and lighting and key cases were installed.

A number of improvements were forced on us due to wear and tear and accidental damage, such as:

1. Replacement boiler;
2. New 75" TV; and
3. Replacement drain and riser into septic tank.

At the end of the 2023 season, the Tennis club has closed due to lack of support and the concrete net posts have been dug up. As this is a completely enclosed area, the Social Club are keen to utilise it as a 5 a side football pitch and new goal posts are being sourced. This should work well with the Bowling Green now being used as the Village Lawn; this area has been well used for parties, events and as an outside drinking area over the past year.

The Gigaloch installation wasn't without its problems, as they mistakenly connected the electricity supply to the Village Hall supply. Whilst we wait for them to rectify this, they have been providing us with a monthly refund which has aided our finances.

One major impact on the Hall's finances has been the resignations of our Steward, and Treasurer and Bookings Secretary. These were fully paid roles which have now been filled by volunteers, so apart from our cleaner there are now no paid roles. This has resulted in a much healthier financial position, which will be further helped by expected reduced electricity usage in the coming months, and a reduction in supply rate when we take out a new contract in January 2025.

However we are still seeking a volunteer to look after the one-off bookings at the hall (eg parties, private functions) to reduce the burden on the current small group of volunteers.

The hall continues to be well supported and feedback on the improvements made have been very positive. Going forward the Hall continues to attract its regular customers - Zumba, Pilates and Yoga. Furthermore, previous customers are returning such as the Art classes and Upholstery classes. The Charity Coffee mornings have proved to be a popular monthly event as have the various Artisan Markets staged throughout the year. There are regular Music Events that are well attended and the yearly Wine Tasting Event continues to be popular.

The Snooker and Billiards team have had mixed seasons, with the snooker team winning the League Cup with the Billiards team narrowly beaten in their cup semi-final. This year also saw the formation of a hugely popular Darts Team that are hoping for early success.

The Village Hall Committee are constantly seeking new ideas for increasing revenue and cutting costs, in an effort to grow the hall and make it prosperous, viable and part of the community.