

# Mistley Village Hall

## Presentation to the Parish Assembly April 2023

Here's a look at this past year for the Village Hall. Remember that a year ago we were still in the shadow of the Covid pandemic and the constraints on social gatherings that had not really been lifted. It seems a long time ago now, but people a year ago were still wary of meeting in organised groups, especially indoors. Bookings for the Hall reflected this hesitancy.

Since last summer, however, we have had a steady increase in bookings, both from previous users returning and from groups new to the Hall. We've had quite an increase, too in bookings for parties. Through the winter, from October to the end of March, we kept the Hall open for two mornings a week as part of the local Warm Spaces initiative. It wasn't in the end very much needed, for which I'm thankful, but we had some nice chatty times with the people who did drop in and with our volunteers.

We have now embarked on a series of charity fundraising evenings which are proving very popular, and the Hall is finding its place serving the community again in splendid style.

As to the Hall itself, we have finished decorating the Lounge and are currently looking at ways of providing coffee and tea there for when the kitchen is not available. We would like to remodel the kitchen next ... it hasn't been done since 2008 ... and we have been asking the regular users of the Hall what sort of kitchen they would like. We will be looking for grants soon to do the work.

The Management Committee has changed during the year as Iris Peacock has stepped down after so many years of service, and we have welcomed Willy Meston in her place. Iris did a huge amount of work establishing the Hall and keeping it running, and the committee is not the same without her.

To sum up, the Hall is at the centre of our local community and is buzzing with activity. We're looking forward to the year ahead.

Rosemary Smith

Chairman,  
Mistley Village Hall Management Committee  
April 2023