

Upton Village Hall AGM annual report 2025/26

Local volunteer trustees manage Upton Village Hall. It operates at a near full occupancy under normal circumstances of its main hall from September to May except during holiday periods. Though there are some slots available at the moment, especially the committee room. Occupancy declines during the summer months allowing for more casual bookings. The meeting room is let out regularly and independently of the main hall without any conflict over facilities. This successful arrangement allows us to keep our hiring fees at a low level, benefiting our organisations and local users. Nearly thirty diverse groups use the facilities, covering ages from babies to the elderly and offering a vast range of sporting, leisure, cultural, personal care, and specialised interest activities. The Hall is excellently managed, maintained and promoted, building up high esteem within the local community.

User Base, Activities and Special Events

The importance of having a successful booking officer continues and that post has transferred from Mark Prescott to Carl Jones. We thank Mark for his work on this task and welcome Carl who has stepped into the breach and has quickly come to terms with the complexity and the handling of this challenging post. The trustees continue to overcome the challenges of covering Phil O'Neill's work ethic, with number of licences for music, utilities, wifi, insurance, the buildings occupancy limits and alcohol storage. But with Colin's diligence on the paperwork and Sandra's oversight abilities, all issues have been resolved, and I would like to thank Colin and Sandra in tackling these issues. Ian continues to communicate with user groups to hopefully eliminate any potential problems with the Drama set construction and performances.

User groups seem to be pleased with the gradual change to mugs from cups for tea and coffee. We have enjoyed sell out events for 'Bob Marley,' 'Simon and Garfunkel' and 'Eyes Down.' We thank Philippa Wade for taking on this responsibility and on making the booking of these evening such a success and we look forward to more of the same in the future.



As usual the Horticultural society, the Flower club and P & Q's have again held very successful events, always well attended. Also, the drama group held two productions, "Party Piece" (picture) and 'Maria Marten,' these productions were very well attended. Trustees, Jane Jones and Ian Hughes, as chairman, were invited to join the W.I. for their 100th anniversary celebration of the organisation being founded in

1926. The lord mayor (picture) was guest of honour and the ladies looked splendid in their amazing outfits, and they were entertained by Rebecca, who revived the music from the roaring 20's. Also, all the other regular user group activities continue to be a success, maintaining the building as a well use community hub, though there are a few gaps in the hall schedule and we are on the lookout for new activities to fill the spaces that are available.



Operations, Maintenance & Enhancements

The new hearing loop still isn't in full working order as we await a microphone to be placed over the stage, and the hall floor will be scrubbed and resealed in August to maintain and preserve its life span. We continue to maintain or replace all electrical equipment in the building. Sandra has monitored the first aid box and the batteries on the defibrillator and replaced any items needed.

The toilet refurbishment has been put on hold at the present until we receive an agreeable quote for the makeover. The drains though continue to be a challenge as we have a recurring problem of a blockage from the ladies' toilets. After various checks, the issue might be a design failure of the drain itself and will need more research to enable a satisfactory resolution. We have had a satisfactory quote for the heating boiler replacement in the event of its failure. We have made a provision to heat the hall in the event that the boiler stops in the middle of winter, as we have installed sockets to enable us to warm the hall with high powered electric heaters.

As Phil O'Neill was our main operations manager for many years in the bar area and stocking all provisions, the committee decided to name the bar after him and a plaque has been put on display. We propose to officially open the installation of the plaque today in his memory.

A new solar light has been fitted in the container as it was recognised as a health and safety problem when stacking the bar tables in the dark.

Alterations to the rear gully drain and side drain appear to be successful, limiting the water flowing from the car park and seeping into the subfloor in the hall, but not resting on our laurels, we intend to investigate the possibility of creating a land drain, which might hopefully stop any ingress of water under the hall floor totally. These improvements have also reduced the amount of condensation we have in the hall, reducing the number of drips we have from the ceiling. The committee decided to rearrange the notice board displays. The one by the entrance will advertise the regular user groups days, the board opposite the one-off dates of events and the far notice board all the official licences to hall have to display. Accessing smart meters has continued to be a challenge and the only possible solution might be to upgrade the meters, but this would be a cost without any improvement to the cost of utilities, so it has been shelved for now. We had an unfortunate accident in the car park as a car ploughed through the rear fence. Helpfully the cars insurance company declared that they would cover the cost of any damage, and the damage was quickly repaired. We are enquiring about replacing the cooker, especially as we will need a good functioning cooker for the dinner to celebrate of the hall's 100th anniversary in 2028. We would like to invite any of the user groups to take part in events during the summer months to show off their gifts, so all users can visit and enjoy their displays.

Board of Trustees & Employees

We are sadly losing the talents of Jill Smith, who is stepping down as a trustee. She has worked faithfully for many years, once holding the post of chairman, always bringing ability and humour to committee meetings, she will be sadly missed. But on a positive note, we will be officially welcoming, Philippa Wade and Gill and Andy Osborne, who are new arrivals to the area and are keen to be involved. Philippa has already, as mentioned taken on the responsibility of organising special events, which have been a great success. Gill and Andy have offered to investigate the running of the social media account on behalf of the hall. I am sure they will fit in nicely, along with all the loyal trustees who spend so much time supporting me as chairman. It makes my responsibilities so much easier. We will continue to put out feelers for more people to join our team of trustees, who do a wonderful job in looking after this marvellous building. The trustees volunteer their time and patience in providing the community with a special place to come together in a safe environment. We look forward to another successful year.

UPTON-BY-CHESTER VILLAGE HALL

Annual Financial Report for the Year to 30th April 2026

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

During the year, Total Incoming Resources were £39,420. Within this, the Main Hall hiring income was £28,988, £1,364 down on the previous year. Meeting Room bookings brought in £1,172, down £586. The Main Hall decrease reflects a reduction in hours of some regular users and a fall in the number of private parties although in recent months we can see these beginning to return to previous levels. The reduction in income from the Meeting Room follows reduced useage by the one of the main users. Income from UVH Events remains stable and we continue to benefit from interest earned on our reserves.

The notable item of Income of £5,000 was a generous legacy left to UVH by our multi-tasking former trustee Phil O'Neill.

Direct Charitable Expenditure was £24,502, £3,071 below the previous year.

Utilities costs of £6,349 were £900 lower than the previous year which reflects a relatively mild winter. Repairs & Maintenance at £4,865 were down £274 on the previous year. Caretaking, Cleaning & Gardening costs at £10,348 were £611 up on the previous year.

Total Purchases were £254 compared with £591 the previous year and total project expenditure was £708 a significant reduction of £2,428 versus the previous year with improvements to the sound system and stage lighting the only work done..

Other Expenditure at £1,476 was also lower than the previous year spend of £2,139

As a result, Net Incoming Resources were £13,442 compared with £6,365 last year.

Excluding the legacy ongoing net income was £8,442 and was achieved through close attention to costs offsetting the drop in income from the hall and meeting room. The Trustees have agreed that in the near future it would be appropriate to review our hiring charges as we know other venues have done while continuing to provide good value to the community that we serve.

Our reserves policy, updated in December 2016, states that the current minimum level of reserves that we wish to maintain is £25,000 which is required for the following:

1. Unexpected major repairs to the building not included in our maintenance plans, the principal areas of risk being the roof, the sprung floor and drains.

2. The unexpected loss in the short to medium term of our 4 highest income generating user groups, which would amount to almost £12,000 per year.

Our reserves at the end of the year stood at £82,556 as we continue to build up funds for major project expenditure covering a new roof, and further down the line a new hall floor and heating system.

The Upton Village Hall charity is a member of Cheshire Community Action and benefits from their advice on best practices and current legislation.

Signed:

I.A. Hughes, Chairman

Date:

For and on behalf of the Board of Management